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THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 18TH APRIL.

SIR Benjamin Simpson has obtained leave for two months and 25 days, and Deputy Surgeon-General Walker, Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals in the North-West Provinces, officiates for him. Brigade Surgeon Rice acts for the latter.

AT one o'clock on April 15, a fire broke out in Pegu, and has destroyed nearly half the town. The Municipal Bazar and Messrs. Edmund Jones and Company's premises escaped. The Burma troubles are far from an end, and new evils are cropping up every day.

A SERIOUS rising has occurred in the Thongwa district near Rangoon. The conspiracy was hatched Hpoongyee Kyoungs, in Upper Burma, by certain Hpoongyees who proclaimed their appointment by the Burmese King, and showed letters from Boh Ottama. They announced that the royal army was on its way down the river, and appointed leaders all over the district. Numbers of the villagers joined or assisted them. One gang was dispersed by the Hanthawaddy Military Police, who captured several. A second gang, numbering 400 men, assembled at Kumpalaing. The leader was just reading a proclamation offering rewards for the heads of European officials, when Moung Tha-Din, Myooke of Dedaye, with a handful of police and Burmans, fired into them, killing several leaders. The gang immediately dispersed, but most of the important men have been captured. News reached Pyapon that a third gang had burned a large village named Patok. The Karens immediately volunteered and started in pursuit. All day people kept arriving at Pyapon, reporting the defeat of the Karens, capture of a steamer, &c. Lieutenant Johnston, Assistant Commissioner, who had just returned from Kumpalaing, started riding across country by moonlight, but found that the rebels, after putting to flight the head constable with Burmese and Indian police, had been completely dispersed by the Karens, who killed four, wounded many, and captured twenty, besides a quantity of arms, gold umbrellas, peacock flags, &c. One of the wounded, the wife of a leader, was dressed in man's clothes. Twenty thousand rupees worth of paddy was destroyed at Patok." What wonder when men and women fight for their country's liberty—call them Dacoits to any extent you please—that the struggle should be long and sustained as it is.

THE tobacco crop in Bengal last year is said to have been a very good one, and the quantity exported is put down at 117,700 maunds.

THE Secretary of State has sanctioned the revised estimate, amounting to Rs. 2,87,50,000, for the cost of construction of the Sind-Sagar system of railways.

IT is said that the chief measures of the coming Simla session of the Legislative Council will be a Bill to consolidate the many Acts relating to Indian ports, an Indian Marine Service Bill, a Bill to reduce stamp duties on fire insurance policies, the Allahabad University Bill, and probably an Indian Army Bill.

A DIFFERENCE of opinion lately arose between the Judges of the Panjab Chief Court and the Lieutenant-Governor regarding the right of District Magistrates to transfer criminal cases of an urgent character to a District Judge in his capacity of Magistrate. It appears that some of the District Judges in the larger districts had complained that their civil work was interrupted by the sudden imposition of a quantity of criminal work, and the Judges of the Chief Court agreed with the District Judges that considerable mischief might thus be done. The Lieutenant-Governor, on the other hand, considered that a fair proportion of criminal work should be allotted to District and Subordinate Judges. The question was finally referred to the Government of India, which has decided that District Judges should take a due share in the ordinary work of administration, whenever their strictly judicial duties are insufficient to fully occupy their time. It was especially pointed out that in a province like the Panjab, where the complete separation of judicial from executive functions cannot be carried out for financial and other reasons, the service of District Judges may unobjectionably be utilized in administrative work. The sooner, however, the separation takes place throughout the country the better for administrative work.

THE Director of Public Instruction in the Punjab has taken up the subject of Commercial Education, and written to Madras for a supply of the Commercial Primers. The example may with advantage be followed in Bengal.

TUESDAY, 19TH APRIL.

FROM the *Army and Civil Service Lists* (second quarter), "published under authority," we find that the salary of Mr. H. S. Thomas, first member of the Board of Revenue and Commissioner of Land Revenue, has been reduced from Rs. 4,000 to Rs. 3,750, and that of Mr. Garstin, the second member and Commissioner of Land Revenue and Inam Commission, increased from Rs. 3,408-5-4 to Rs. 3,500. The "processional horse" is at a discount, but not the other.

MR. THOMAS J. LIPTON, a provision merchant of Sunderland, has forwarded a letter to the Queen, asking her Majesty's acceptance of "the largest cheese ever made." It stated that the cheese would be the product of one day's milking of 8,500 cows, and would weigh not less than five tons—to be made in Canada, and to be ready by September. Sir H. Ponsonby has replied to the effect that the Queen cannot accept any presents from private individuals to whom she is not personally known. Everything on a gigantic scale on the other side of the Atlantic. Is not the whole thing a poor trick? The provisioner well knew that his offer would be declined and simply wanted to advertise himself and very effectively too.

IT is in no way surprising that insanity should seem to increase in races or classes which are being intellectually stimulated by education. There is, says the *Lancet*, always in every community, a proportion of brains which, being brought into action, will break down. This proportion doubtless diminishes as the community is elevated, and in a very few generations the result of culture may—probably will—be to develop a better stock, looking upon the people as a whole; but at the outset of the educationary process, and in the generation first taught, the immediate result must be a considerable number of wreckings. This general principle is applicable to all races, peoples, and classes, and it explains why the first effect of trying to elevate the Negroes has been to produce an apparent increase of insanity among them. Our Anglo-Indian friends would like us to take the warning, we suppose.

THE following are "Zadkiel's" predictions for the month of April:—"Mars rules with fierce strength in the sign Aries, disturbing England in her home and foreign affairs; at the same time giving her victory over her enemies. The debates in the House of Commons will be of an exciting and momentous character; the Budget will be of a disappointing nature. A sudden movement in Germany will cause anxiety, the reigning family there will be in affliction. On the 20th instant, Mars will oppose Jupiter, and as each planet will be in a fixed sign (Taurus and Scorpio), we shall soon hear of earthquakes in the South of Europe, the Grecian Archipelago, and perhaps Scotland. The Government will have an anxious time, and the debates in the House of Commons will be acrimonious and critical. Jupiter having just risen, gives some hope, but being governed by Mars and cadent in the twelfth house, too much reliance must not be placed on the maintenance of peace, for there is a serious danger of a sudden foreign quarrel. The beginning of May, and the middle of August and October, will be the most critical periods. The moon being weakly placed, and the lord of the ascendant afflicted, the condition of the labouring classes will be far from good, and strikes and riots are to be feared. Trade will not be good, except that connected with the manufacture of arms." Amidst this enormous amount of rot some will doubtless be verified.

COLONEL Bunnerman, of Gwalior, will officiate for Sir Lepel Griffin when he proceeds to England with the Maharaja Holkar. Major Barr, of Rewah, will probably go to Gwalior.

THE death is announced, at Rewah, of Sirdar Kalian Singh, one of the Chief nobles of the Rewah state, and the specially appointed guardian of the young Maharaja.

ONE of the German Emperor's physicians has been making some statements, which, in view of the constantly repeated rumours about His Majesty's health, are of great interest. The Emperor's constitution, he says, is so wonderfully good, that it resembles a perfect clock work, which will stop only when it has run down, or something out of the common happens, and it is to prevent this, that he is continually watched with the greatest attention, so as to avert, or immediately to cure every indisposition. Of course, the Emperor requires a great deal of sleep, although not more than many younger people. His occasional swoons, however, have nothing to do with drowsiness, but are the consequences of over-exertion. As to the running down of the Emperor's organism, his mental and physical freshness of health, as he has once more shown during M. de Lessep's visit, are such that many, who are thirty or forty years younger, might envy him.

WEDNESDAY, 20TH APRIL.

SIR Henry Maine, L.L.D., K.C.S.I., Master of Trinity Hall, has been appointed Professor of International Law in the University of Cambridge in the place of Sir William Vernon Harcourt. By the express injunction of Dr. Whewell, the founder of this endowment, the professor will "make it his aim in all parts of his treatment of the subject to lay down such rules and to suggest such measures as may tend to diminish the evils of war, and finally to exterminate war between nations."

THE effect of the unusually heavy floods of 1886 in Sylhet is shown in the returns of river-borne trade for the last quarter of the year, there being a decline in exports also, mainly rice, of 163,000 maunds.

"NOTHING, perhaps (says the *World*,) could give a better idea of the distance India was from England between seventy and eighty years ago, than the fact that George III's Jubilee was celebrated out there the *year after* its celebration at home. It was kept in the summer of 1810. Calcutta was illuminated for the battle of Waterloo on Monday, December 18, 1815, the news having arrived a few days before." A summer Jubilee in these Hills' days would be shocking to our officials.

IN a recent Resolution on the Directorships of Public Instruction, the Government of India refers to the prevailing system of making a single Professor teach several subjects on different occasions, and of transferring an officer appointed for a special purpose to work of an entirely different nature. The Government recommend the appointment of specialists as Professors in the Government Colleges for a definite period at a fixed rate of pay. Where will be the opportunity for showing favour then?

THE Hon'ble Mr. Wilson, Judge, High Court, has been granted two months' leave.

IT is stated that Mr. H. A. Cockerell, C. S. I., will retire from service, and that Mr. F. M. Halliday, his *locum tenens* in the Board of Revenue, will be confirmed in his appointment.

A PORTRAIT of Lord Ripon, costing £316, has been sent out by the Secretary of State for India for the Government House, Calcutta.

THE road through the Khyber pass has been brought to such an excellent condition that one might drive to the foot of the Ali Musjid hill.

NATAL tea is beginning to make a reputation in the London market, and experts pronounce a favourable judgment on the quality of the samples. They consider it holds out great promise. The verdict on the Johore samples is unfavourable.

NEWS from China states that Sir Robert Hart has requested the Chinese Government to place foreign and native opium on the same footing as regards taxation, but that the Marquis Tseng is strongly opposed to the proposal.

CUDDALORE, Madras Presidency, is in a state of excitement. It is alleged that the Catholic priest there wrongfully confined a young woman for over a month in the convent, cut her hair off, and subjected her to other ill treatment. The complaint forms the subject of an inquiry before the Town Magistrate.

A PERIODICAL for the review of Oriental literature is about to be started at Vienna. The articles will appear in various languages—French, German, and English. A series of papers dealing with India are to appear and these will be written in English. A contemporary trusts the journal will popularize India among the people of Europe, and awaken increased interest in her great ancient literature. We wish God speed to the project.

THURSDAY, 21ST APRIL.

THE final test which induced the Committee inquiring into the issue of defective sword-bayonets to condemn the whole of those of the pattern mentioned by Captain Rawson, C. B., of Her Majesty's ship *Indus*, was made at Enfield. Some of the bayonets of the *Indus*, were taken to the Small Arms Factory, and tried on the carcase of a sheep dressed in soldier's clothes, with a great coat on. A thrust was made at the object with the result that the bayonet bent in two places without there being any penetration into the animal.

IT is alleged that the new French explosive—melinite—causes blood-poisoning. If this should prove correct, its use is prohibited by the Declaration of St. Petersburg of December 11, 1868. The declaration of Brussels of August 27, 1874, concerning the usages of war, also forbids the employment of poison or poisoned weapons. France being a signatory to both these conventions, it follows that she must conform to their provisions. It would, therefore, be advisable that the effects of melinite should be officially determined.

A CONTEMPORARY understands that the Cirencester scholorships, established by the Government of Bengal under Sir Ashley Eden, are to be discontinued temporarily. We do not vouch for the truth of the report, though the reason is manifest.

THE Government of Madras has been turning its attention to the creation of a silk industry for that Presidency. The matter is in the preliminary stage at present, or was so three months ago, but it is hoped that definite and feasible proposals will be made shortly in view to the establishment, under the sole charge of the Forest Department, of Government cocoon farms in selected places on the borders of Government forests, the "Mylitta Silk Mills," now fairly established in Madras under the management of Messrs. Deschamps and de Guingue, undertaking to purchase at fair prices all the cocoons that these Government farms may be able to produce. Similar cocoon farms, belonging to private ryots, are said to be numerous and profitable in the Central Provinces, and it is hoped, therefore, that after a few years of Government working, just to start the industry, such private farms may eventually become numerous and profitable in the Madras Presidency.

IT is stated by some wiseacre that the heart of a man weighs about nine ounces—that of a woman eight. As age increases man's heart grows heavier, and a woman's lighter after thirty. Literally and figuratively correct as well.

ACCORDING to a recent number of "Blackwood," the Russian soldier has to do what would not at all suit Thomas Atkins of the British Army. He has to fast 169 days in the year to establish his claim as a faithful adherent of the Greek Church. But the Hindu is a fasting soldier also, and when there is need he gives the rice to Tommy and contents himself with the *phan*.

THERE will be three great Reviews in England in connection with Her Majesty's Jubilee,—one of the Regular Army Auxiliaries at Aldershot, a naval review at Portsmouth, and a march past of the Volunteers at Buckingham Palace.

A MOTION will be made at the next meeting of the Senate of the University of Bombay in favour of the introduction of the Vernaculars into the Arts curriculum. Exceedingly silly.

IN order to celebrate the centenary of the Colony of New South Wales, it is proposed to hold an exhibition at Melbourne to be called the "Melbourne Centennial Exhibition." It will be opened on the 1st May, 1888, and will remain open for six months.

MR. GLADSTONE avowed that it was his deliberate intention to oppose the Crimes Bill at every stage. He declared that there was a great decrease in Irish crime, and that the only crime complained of had for its object the reduction of rents. Neither the quality nor quantity of the crime existing justified coercion. General Buller's evidence before Lord Cowper's Commission proved conclusively not only that six-sevenths of the country was free from crime, but that there was no unwillingness to pay rent. General Buller distinctly alleged that the country was administered only in the interest of the rich; so that the Bill which the Government proposed to introduce would give greater facilities to landlords to recover rents which had been proved to be too high. The Opposition would, Mr. Gladstone added, resist at every stage an ill-omened measure which promised such injustice.

FRIDAY, 22ND APRIL.

M. ROSENTHAL recently played, in Paris, simultaneously, an exhibition chess match against thirty different amateurs. He won twenty-six games, drew three, and lost only one. He was allowed only one minute for each move. What an amount of intellectual power wasted!

GLASS will, it is stated, very likely soon be employed for sheathing the bottoms of ships. The Italians have already tried it in substitution of the copper sheathing generally in use. It is thought that it will reduce the amount of friction, and will be free from rust and incrustation. The plates are cast to fit the hulk, and are rivetted on.

THE incomes of the royal families of Europe amount to close upon thirteen millions sterling a year. Germany stands at the head of all European nations in the matter of royal incomes. That Empire, with a population of more than forty-five millions, supports twenty-two royal, princely, and ducal families, and the direct cost of their maintenance is £3,300,000. In Prussia and several of the other German States the reigning family, besides its public income, possesses very large private estates, and, indeed, in some of the States, the princes are the chief landowners. In Mecklinburg Strelitz, for instance, the reigning-family owns three-fifths of the land, and the Grand Duke governs without the aid of any representative institution whatever. Turkey comes next to Germany in its royal expenditures, the total amount absorbed by the Sultan and his family being about £3,200,000. The Imperial family of Russia costs that country £2,450,000, the greater part of which comes in the shape of rents from the crown domains which consist of more than a million square miles of land, besides gold and silver mines. The Austrian imperial family is tolerably well off, having a revenue of £920,000, all of which comes directly from the public revenue of the country. The British royal family comes next, with a cost to the country of about £900,000. The sum includes the revenue derived from the Duchies of Lancaster and Cornwall, which amounts to £111,000. The old Duchess of Cambridge, now eighty-eight years of age, continues to draw from the British Treasury £6,000, a year besides enjoying the royal palaces of St. Jame's and Kew as her residences. Italy pays her royal family £660,000, which is a very large sum in proportion to the means of the country, while Spain disburses on the same account £400,000. This ends the list of European monarchies of large population. But the minor monarchies also pay their royal families very large sums. Belgium pays £133,500 a year to her king, and Portugal, with three quarters of a million less population, pays £127,000. Monarchy costs Sweden and Norway £117,500 annually; Denmark £62,000; Holand, £63,000; Roumania, £40,800; and Greece, £42,000. But £12,000 of this last sum is paid by England, France, and Russia. Republican France gives her President £36,000, two-thirds of which is in the form of salary, and one-third for household expenses. This is about the same as the cost of India for her Viceroy. The Swiss Republic pays its president £6000 a year, which is probably the smallest sum that the head of any civilised nation in the world receives. All the expenditures of Switzerland are on a correspondingly low scale. The expenditure of the confederation does not reach £2,000,000 annually.

THE Parisian advocates have lately discussed the delicate question, "Has a husband a right to open his wife's letters?" at a recent conference, and they decided that he has. A journalist, who has consulted several extra-legal luminaries on the point, finds them, with a single exception, in substantial agreement with the lawyers. An "enlightened priest," whose name is not given, answered that the doctrine of the Church was that the "husband is master in the house," and that he had, therefore, a perfect right to open his wife's letters. M. de Pressense, the leading Protestant pastor in Paris, was somewhat less affirmative, though, as regards wives who had anything to fear from the exercise of the right. he supported the decision of the barristers, while in the case of a good wife he could not see how it mattered either way. Alexandre Dumas, looking at the question from the historico-philosophical standpoint, contended that what we know of the relations of Adam and Eve in the Garden of the Eden clearly establishes the right of the husband to inspect his wife's correspondence. Mame. Peyrebrune's answer was also in the affirmative, though she added that the question was of no practical importance, as compromising letters are never sent through the post. Mdme Adam was the only dissentient. In her opinion, the husband who opened his wife's letters was nothing more nor less than a blackguard (*Goujat*). Will this civilised law about opening letters apply to Bhikaji opening the private correspondence of Rukmabai? What an amount of interesting disclosures would such correspondence make!

SATURDAY, 23RD APRIL.

IT is intended to hold an International Congress on Cremation in September of the present year. The place selected for this gathering of the *savants* of various countries who are interested in cremation and cemetery hygiene is Milan. French will be the official language of the Congress; but the speakers may if they like, make use of any other language. Reports will be submitted as to the progress made in the practice of cremation in different countries, and the formation of an international league will be proposed. An exhibition of models of crematories, urns, and other subjects connected with the campaign now being conducted against the present methods of disposing of the dead will be open during the Congress. Barbarous Hindoos settled the point long, before civilized Europe required Congresses to understand the principles underlying the question.

THE following story about the new Governor of Madras will be read with interest: "His Excellency paid a visit to the local Central Station one morning, in time to see the passengers getting into the carriages of the trains leaving the station at 7 A. M. and 7.15 A. M. Many of native third-class passengers happened to be standing in groups outside the carriages, and not attempting to enter any of them. His Excellency noticed this, and, seeing several empty carriages at the lower end of the train, called the attention of one of the Railway employes to the circumstance, and enquired why the passengers were not allowed to enter those carriages. The reply was that these vehicles were intended for passengers at road-side stations, and that other carriages would presently be attached for the passengers now waiting on the platform. Hearing this, His Excellency exclaimed 'Shame! Shame! Shame!' His Excelleney afterwards inspected some of the carriages which passengers had already entered, and, counting the number huddled together in one carriage, enquired how many passengers the carriage was supposed to seat. The reply was that the carriage generally carried from fifty to sixty passengers. Another 'Shame! Shame!' burst from His Excellency as he heard the reply. Passing on, His Excellency saw a whole carriage without a single passenger in it, and enquired for whom that empty carriage was intended. His Excellency was told that it was intended for one of the railway officials. This drew forth another exclamation of 'Shame! His Excellency then asked for a list of officials who travelled alone in similar carriages, and was informed that such carriages were set apart for the Agents and Manager, the Traffic Manager, the Chief Engineer, the Locomotive Superintendent, and the Telegraph Engineer. His Excellency took a note of this, and left the station." His Excellency will not be slow in taking action it may be hoped. If high officials are half as sympathetic, millenium in a qualified form may not be very far off. *Our* officials go to Darjeeling and Simla. Did they ever take any such note, not to speak of action?

THE total value of fish landed on the English and Welsh coasts last year was £3,957,075. Exclusive of shellfish, the quantity was 320,000 tons, of an average value of 1¼d. per pound. The total value of fish landed in Scotland was £1,403,000, and of shellfish £73,000, and the cured fish may be set down at £1,000,000, and salmon at £324,000; 24,000 tons of fish were landed in Ireland valued at £643,000. The total fish-catch of the United Kingdom, excluding salmon, is estimated at 580,000 tons of the total value of £6,400,000. The total number of men and boys employed in the fishing industry in Great Britain and Ireland was 125,764. The value of the fish imported last year was £1,422,246, or not quite 8 per cent. of the total quantity of fish landed in the United Kingdom.

THE *Pioneer* describes retired Indian officials "as exhausted administrative volcanoes."—Not a bad hit that.

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The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, APRIL 25, 1887.

THE BURDWAN ADOPTION CASE.

THERE is one feature of the Burdwan Adoption case which involves a question of great public importance. We are not at present concerned with the question as to whether the adoption of the late Maharaja's natural sister's son,—specially when the boy is the eldest and the only son of his natural father,—is valid under the Punjab custom to which the personal law affecting the Burdwan Raj family is said to be subject. That is a question the final decision of which must rest with the highest courts of the country on the evidence that will be placed before them. What strikes us is, what is the meaning and scope of the enquiry which the Board of Revenue are making into the merits of the adoption, and of what avail will be the order which His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor will feel compelled to pass on the report of the Board? The Board of Revenue have no judicial functions; as Court of Wards their powers are purely executive; they cannot examine witnesses, sift and analyse evidence, and adjudicate upon it in an adoption case for any useful purpose whatever. Whether His Honor acting on the advice of the Board sanctions or disapproves of the adoption, it would have little effect on the settlement of the question, so far as the parties are concerned, and either party will have full liberty, as we read the law, to apply to the constituted courts of the country to have the adoption upheld or set aside as the case may be. The decision of the executive authorities will not have a feather's weight in the trial and adjudication of the question by the regular courts. And this brings us to the question,—what then is the object and effect of the provision contained in Sec. 61 of Act IX of 1879 B. C. (the Court of Wards Act.) That Section says "No adoption by any ward, and no written or verbal permission to adopt given by any ward, shall be valid without the consent of the Lieutenant-Governor, obtained either previously or subsequently to such adoption, or to the giving of such permission, on application made to him through the Court." According to this section not only should the adoption receive the consent of the Lieutenant-Governor, but the very permission to adopt must also receive his sanction. The first question, therefore, which the Board of Revenue and the Lieutenant-Governor will have to decide is whether the permission to adopt given by the late Maharaja is valid. But there is no room for such an inquiry. The late Maharaja was not a ward; he had fully attained his majority, and had perfect right to grant permission for one or more adoptions, and the truth of the permission can be tested only by a regular court of law. The Wards' Act does not at all apply to the case. Even supposing that the Act does apply to the case, the question to be decided is, has the legislature, or any executive authority acting under it, the power to control the right of a Hindu to give permission to his wife to adopt a son after his death? We think that there is not only no such power, but that the section in question is one of those careless and haphazard pieces of legislation of which instances are so numerous in this country. The section takes cognisance of verbal permissions to adopt, but we think that since the passing of the Hindu Wills Act, 1870, no such permission can be valid, in spite of the fiat of the Lieutenant-Governor. It seems to us that this obvious mistake was made in consequence of the greater part of a similar provision contained in the Court of Wards Act, 1870, having been reproduced in the Act of 1879. The older Act required the *previous* consent of the Lieutenant-Governor to give validity to a permission to adopt. The absurdity of the provision must have been clear to the legislature of 1879, but while that absurdity was removed, the error about verbal permissions to adopt was perpetuated. Be that as it may, we maintain that the Bengal Council had no power to make the right of a Hindu ward to give permission to adopt contingent upon the sanction of the Lieutenant-Governor. It is an indefeasible right of the ward which none can gainsay. It is based on religious feelings and requirements which the British Government has always professed to respect. The India Councils Act, 1861, took care to provide that even in the Council of the Governor-General for making laws and regulations, "it shall not be lawful for any member or additional member to introduce, without the previous sanction of the Governor-General, any measure affecting the religion or religious rites and usages of any class of Her Majesty's subjects in India." We think, therefore, that the power given to the Lieutenant-Governor by Sec. 61 of Act IX. of 1879 is wholly *ultra vires* of the Bengal Council and that it is a mischievous interference with the religious feelings and rights of the community. The sooner, therefore, it is expunged from the Statute-book, the better both for the Government and the country.

THE AMENDED MUNICIPAL BILL OF CALCUTTA.

THE protracted labours of the Select Committee on this important Bill, which denied Sir Rivers Thompson the gratification of seeing his pet scheme safely through the Council before he laid down the reins of office, are at an end. Important minutes of dissent have been recorded by the Hon'ble Mr. G. Irving and the Hon'ble Kali Nath Mitra. The Hon'ble Abdul Jubbar has also certain objections to some of the provisions regarding the constitution of the Corporations. Subject to their respective reservations, however, the report has been signed by those Hon'ble members along with the Hon'ble Sir Henry Harrision and Mr. Macaulay. As the Bill is not coming on for the final consideration of the Council before the next session, both Sir Steuart Bayley and the public will have sufficient time to consider it in its amended form, and it is to be hoped that the enlightened sympathy of the present ruler of Bengal will reduce to a minimum the objectionable features of a measure which his predecessor has tied him down with and which, however unpalatable, has now gone too far for recision.

The Select Committee have retained 75 as the most convenient number of Commissioners, all things considered for the new Corporation; but in lieu of dividing them into five-fifteenths nominated and ten-fifteenths elected Commissioners, they have preferred to fix three-fifteenths as the proportion of nominated Commissioners, ten-fifteenths elected in the ordinary way, and two-fifteenths elected by special constituencies associated with the commerce and trade of Calcutta. In this they are said to have followed a principle adopted in the draft Bill for altering the constitution of the Port Trust of Calcutta. The Port Trust Bill, however, of Calcutta is far from being unobjectionable, as the reader is well aware, and it is a pity that the Select Committee should have thought fit to borrow the constitution of the Municipality, however partially, from that Bill. It is a great gain no doubt to have the preponderance of the number of elected members to the extent of twelve-fifteenths or three-fifths of the whole body instead of one-third as before. But all things considered the extraordinary election provided in the second part of Section 8 of the Amended Bill is but a provision for more nominated or nominee members, if we care to be a shade more grammatical, in a slightly different garb. Fifty members are to be elected in the ordinary way by the ordinary constituencies, and special constituencies such as the Chamber of Commerce, the Port Trust and the Trades Association are to have the right of returning ten members all of whom, it may safely be taken, will be exactly such as the Government would have nominated, namely Anglo-Indian toadies of a pronounced type. The Hon'ble Mr. Irving in his dissent claims that in consideration of the "paramount interest of the commercial interests of Calcutta," which the Hon'ble Member gratuitously supposes are represented mainly or solely by Europeans and Anglo-Indians, half the number of the Commissioners elected or appointed, ought to be of the Anglo-Indian community. The concession by the Committee to the *special* constituencies may be meant as a sop for this unreasonable claim, which is but a reverberation of the old cry of "Hindoo preponderance." Mr. Irving's fallacies are very successfully refuted in the dissent of Babu Kali Nath Mitra, who observes:—"It is said that the ratio of Hindoo representatives is far in excess of that which is desirable. Those who hold this opinion are perhaps not aware of the immense permanent interest the Hindoos have in the town. I have had a statement prepared showing 100 of the largest rate-payers of the town, without including the Government buildings, and of them I find that 58 are Hindoos, who pay the total sum of Rs.55,411-6; 22 are Europeans and of other nationalities, who pay Rs. 22,581-1-9; 6 of them are Mahomedans, who pay the sum of Rs. 5,425-3-9; and 4 of them are Jews, who pay Rs. 13,037-1-3. Besides the above, the Bonded Warehouse pays Rs. 3,158-1-6, the Official Trustee Rs. 2,235-15-6, Bank of Bengal Rs. 1,938, Administrator-General Rs. 1,745-2-6, Receiver, High Court, Rs. 1,209-15-3, Oriental Bank Rs. 850, and Agra Bank Rs. 612; and it is a fact which cannot be gainsaid that as you go lower down the list of rate-payers you will find that the Hindoos pay far the largest amount of tax." By the aid of incontrovertible facts and figures the Hon'ble dissentient shows that as the Mahomedans and other nationalities have taken greater interest in the election, they have been able to return a larger number of members from their own communities, and that the number of Hindoo Commissioners as returned by the last election has answered exactly the same proportion as was contemplated by the Legislature in 1876. With election, pure and simple, and with the aid of nomination on a considerably less scale than at present, it will be quite possible to secure an adequate representation of these interests, if the persons who represent them will come forward with the same zeal, and take the same trouble, as the Hindoos do, in getting their candidates returned. Babu Kali Nath Mitra, in common with the rest of his countrymen, cannot understand why the privilege of election should be confined to any particular bodies to the exclusion of others. He, therefore, recommends that the number of Commissioners should be fixed at 80, exclusive of the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman. Of these, 60 should be elected and 20 nominated by Government. Of the 25 wards in which Calcutta has been divided, the wards Nos 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 12, 13, 15, 16 and 17 should elect three, and the remaining wards two, members. This mode of election will secure the return of five more representatives of the other nationalities than will be the case if every ward is allowed to elect only two members. As according to this scheme Government would have five more members to nominate than are provided for by the Select Committee, the opportunity might be taken to nominate proper representatives of the minorities. And so the intention of the Select Committee to add 10 more of the other nationalities to the number of the Commissioners would, to all intents and purposes, be carried into effect with this advantage that undue and unreasonable favouritism would not be shown to special bodies. Babu Kali Nath points out that at the last election two of the elected Commissioners were also Commissioners for the Port of Calcutta, that one was a Member of the Trades, and another a merchant. If the Chamber of Commerce, the Trades Association and the Port Trust, as special bodies are to be allowed a special favour there seems to be little reason why corporations like the University of Calcutta, and recognised public bodies, such as the British Indian Association, the Indian Association, the Indian Union and the Bengal National League should be denied the same, unless it be for the reasons that they are the concern of 'natives', pure and simple. We trust such distinctions will not be made by Sir Steuart Bayley and if the concession cannot be extended to all entitled to it, the whole thing had better be dropped. Our legislators cannot with a good grace, we fancy, give the same curt reply to the recognised and esteemed public bodies like the British Indian and the Indian Associations as they did to the Bengal Na-

tional Chamber of Commerce, namely that they were yet in their long clothes and had better learn their business before they ventured to trouble Government with silly requests for sending representatives to celestial bodies like the Port Trust. The best course by far would be to do away entirely with this objectional dual system of constituencies. And if to perpetuate favouritism Government sees fit to retain it, as we hope it will not, it will have to consider the claims of other recognised public bodies and corporations as well. This will not only be an act of justice, but will foster the spirit of self-help in the people by raising the status of their public bodies. We are no advocates of any public body in particular. We fight for election, pure and simple, and in writing thus we only meet an argument.

THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

THE Financial Statement for 1887-88 is the most melancholy and the most disheartening, and the most unstatesman-like ever issued by the Government of India since the budget system was introduced. The Indian Revenues have increased by nearly three millions in two years; yet the Government of India is not able to make the two ends meet without misappropriating the Famine Insurance Fund and starving the Provinces. The out-look is, indeed, most gloomy, and it must be a source of grave anxiety to the tax-payer. Even with the imposition of the Income-tax, the retrenchment of incomes hitherto enjoyed by the Provincial Governments and the absorption of the Famine Insurance Fund, the Government of India has not been able to produce a decent surplus. The Budget Estimates for 1887-88 reckon on a nominal surplus of £162,700. We have little doubt that this estimated surplus will end in a heavy deficit. The Finance Minister has taken the rate of exchange for the current year at 17½ pence; but as a matter of fact, exchange is now below 17 pence. We must remember that the additional burden imposed on the finances of India by the fall of a penny in the exchange amounts to something like a million sterling. Even if there could be no further fall in silver, the additional charge on account of exchange will amount to about two millions. The Finance Minister apparently hopes that the labours of the Royal Commission upon the currency question, now sitting in England, will result in the appreciation of silver; but all such hopes have been entirely dispelled by Lord Salisbury's recent utterances on the subject in the House of Lords. The Budget of 1887-88 proves, if any further proof were wanted, the grave unwisdom of the course which Lord Ripon and Sir Evelyn Baring followed in 1882 in remitting the import duties and reducing the salt-tax. The wanton sacrifice of revenue which these measures caused can not be too deeply deplored, as it has permanently crippled the finances of the Empire.

The most noticeable features of the Budget for 1887-88 of which we gave a summary in a recent issue, are the diverting of the Famine Insurance Fund from its original object of reducing debt and constructing public works of an anti-famine character to meet the ordinary administration charges of the Empire, and the revision of the financial contracts between the Provincial governments and the Imperial government. It is by the absorption of the famine Fund and the retrenchment of the incomes hitherto enjoyed by the local governments that the financier has been enabled to largely make the two ends meet. The accounts of 1885-86 closed with a deficit of nearly three millions, and it is explained that in the Revised Estimates of 1886-87 and in the Budget Estimates of 1887-88 the deficit which would have otherwise occurred have been met by transfer to loan of charges otherwise debitable to revenue under the head of Famine Insurance, or, in plain English, by the misappropriation of the Famine Fund.

The Finance Minister, as might be naturally expected, takes great pains to justify the absorption of the Famine Insurance Fund. This is not the first time that this policy has been pressed by the Government of India. Shortly after the creation of the Fund in 1878, it was diverted from its original object to meet the expenses of the Afghan War. Sir John Strachey quietly announced the disappearance of the Famine Fund in his Budget for 1879-80. One of the first acts of Sir Evelyn Baring as Finance Minister was to reduce the Fund. Sir Auckland Colvin does not consider the question of the maintenance of the Fund to be a matter of any importance. He says:—"Apart from peculiar considerations to which I will refer, it is admittedly a mere question of account. This is obvious in a moment's consideration. If, for example, in 1886-87 we maintain the contribution from our revenues towards the construction of railways, our expenditure on account of administrative requirements exceeds our receipts by £1,049,400, and that is the deficit which we must provide from borrowed money. If, on the other hand, we omit from the charges against Revenue this sum of £1,049,400 on account of railways, we have an equivalent sum available to meet administrative charges, and we have no deficit, but, in such case, we must debit an equivalent charge for construction of railways to loan. In either case it will be seen that the amount which we have to borrow is precisely the same; whether on the one hand we borrow on account of our railways, or on the other hand, to make good the sum of a deficit." It cannot be denied that the primary object with which the Famine Insurance Fund was constituted was to secure a reserve against extraordinary charges caused by the periodical recurrence of famines. In order to provide a surplus of £1,500,000 for this purpose additional burdens were imposed upon the people. The question is not merely a matter of account, as Sir Auckland Colvin would have the public believe. When fresh taxation was introduced in 1878, Lord Lytton, the then Viceroy, gave a solemn pledge that its proceeds were to be scrupulously devoted to the relief of famine. Nothing could be more specific than the following declaration of his lordship:—"The sole justification of the increased taxation which has just been imposed upon the people of India for the purpose of insuring their Empire against the worst calamities of future famines, so far as such an insurance can now be practically provided, is the pledge we have given that a sum not less than a million and a half sterling, which exceeds the amount of the additional contributions obtained from the people for this purpose, shall be annually applied to it. * * * * We have pledged ourselves not to spend one rupee of the special resources thus created upon works of a different character." When the nature of the new taxation which was imposed upon the people of India in 1878 is considered, it will be readily admitted that the "sole justification" for the taxation was to be found in the purpose to which it was to be applied. The solemn pledge which had been made to the Indian people in 1878 was first broken by Lord Lytton and Sir John Strachey when the invasion of Afghanistan was undertaken and the fund was absorped in defraying the expenses of that military expedition. And now the pledge has been again broken by Lord Dufferin and Sir Auckland Colvin for meeting the cost of the annexation of Upper Burma. We must remember that in 1886-87 there was excess expenditure on account of military operations in Burma which amounted to £860,000, while the Civil Estimates for Upper Burma were increased by £289,000 mainly on account of Police. It will thus be seen that the excess charges caused last year by the annexation of Upper Burma amounted to nearly a million and a quarter. Then, in 1887-88 the net charges in the Estimates for Upper Burma, after deducting the revenue expected from that Province, amount in round numbers, to a million and three-quarters. In the two years, 1886-87 and 1887-88, the less expenditure, on account of Upper Burma will thus come to three millions. But for this expenditure it would not at all have been necessary to absorb the Famine Insurance Fund for two years. Sir Auckland Colvin thinks that no useful end would be gained by entering into a discussion of the views and objects with which the Famine Insurance Scheme was originally launched in 1877. He points out that the scheme is based on the assumption that we have a surplus. He then proceeds to say:—"But a surplus cannot be unless it exists, and if our current expenditure exceeds revenue the surplus is wanting." Say what the Finance Minister may, the broad fact remains that the government of India has deliberately broken Lord Lytton's pledge, and misappropriated the Famine Insurance Fund. It was distinctly declared that not a fraction of the taxation which was imposed for famine purposes was to be devoted to any other object; and yet the money which the people of India were called upon to contribute for securing their country against famine is being expended for military purposes in order to open new markets for British manufactures. Financial complexity has apparently for some people a strange fascination. Sir John Strachey and his disciple Sir Auckland Colvin belong to this class. They seem to believe that a considerable improvement can be effected in the finances by dexterous arrangement of figures. We know very well that the Famine Insurance Fund would sooner or later be misappropriated; and in order to prevent such misappropriation we urged in 1878 with all the force we could command that the additional revenue yielded by the new taxation should be created into a Statutory Fund. Whatever assignments may be advanced to justify for the absorption of the Famine Insurance Fund it is as clear as the sun at noon-day that the most positive promise which Lord Lytton made to the Indian people has been scattered to the winds.

DIVORCE IN HINDU LAW.

IT must be obvious to the commonest understanding, that in the infancy of society those circumstances which under one set of conditions would give rise to the fixity of relation between the sexes, *i. e.* marriage, would soon after, under another set of conditions, devise means for undoing that fixity. The rearing of issue renders fixity absolutely necessary, even if it be for a time, and the growth of private property cannot advance without marriage, and without fixity there can be no effective rule about filial and other inheritance of that property. Bearing then in mind the various causes such as incompatibility of temper, unchastity, desertion, &c., which must at times bring on separation, organised society cannot overlook the necessity of providing the means for untying the marriage bond. One may thus *a priori* conclude that marriage and divorce must have existed in every society from a very early period, and as a matter of fact such has really been the case. There never has been a human society in which marriage and divorce did not exist. At the same time, it must be obvious that as the theory of marriage was not everywhere the same, the mode of dissolving marriage must vary. A pigeon dissatisfied with his mate easily pecks and claws her out of the nest. In the most primitive states of human society matters did not improve much. A forcible taking possession of a maiden was equivalent to marriage (the *Paisachi* marriage of the Hindus), and murder or expulsion from the community constituted divorce. The transition from this brutal condition to a civilized state of marriage took place under two separate theories, the civil and the religious. The Romans and the Semitics took up the theory of civil contracts, and the Indo-Aryans generally the religious one, and divorce adapted itself to these varying circumstances. Generally speaking the civil theory necessarily made divorce easy—a civil contract terminable by the contracting parties—and the religious theory made it difficult of attainment, at times almost unattainable. But human nature always stepped in when priest-craft attempted to be too strict, and defeated it in detail. Following the "civil contract" theory the Roman marriage was terminable at the option of the parties concerned without the intervention of law or any legal process, though the abuse of power was some times punished. Justinian sanctioned divorce by mutual consent for three causes only, viz., impotency, desire to enter a monastic life, or prolonged captivity. By the earlier laws a husband could divorce a wife for adultery, preparing poisons, or being a procuress; and the wife for murder, being a preparer of poison, and for violating tombs. A wife divorcing her husband for other than these causes was liable to forfeit her dowry and be punished by deportation. In Justinian's Code (1) conspiracy against the empire, (2) at-

tempting her life, (3) attempting to induce her to commit adultery, (4) wrongfully accusing her of adultery, (5) taking a paramour to her house, were the grounds which would qualify a wife to divorce her husband. If she did so for other reasons, she was liable to forfeit her dowry and could not marry for five years. The husband's grounds for divorce were, (1) conspiracy against the empire, (2) adultery, (3) attempting her husband's life, or concealing plots against him, (4) going to baths or banquets with other men, (5) remaining from home against her husband's wish, or (6) going to circus, theatre or amphitheatre against his wish. In such cases, the husband retained the dowry. The Muhammadans afford to us the nearest illustration of the civil contract theory, and they have various forms and rules for untying the marriage bond, *i. e. talak* or divorce. We must not, however, prolong this article by giving details thereof. Suffice it to say, that a set form of words, pronounced before a competent witness, is sufficient to accomplish a divorce among the Mohamedans.

To turn now to the religious theory which makes marriage a sacrament, "the holy bond of matrimony;" we have the most notable illustration of it in the Roman Church, which absolutely declines to put asunder what God has put together. In practice, however, it never stuck rigidly to this principle: The ecclesiastical courts in England allowed two forms of divorce, (1) divorce from bed and board, (*a mensa et thoro,*) (2) divorce, or total breaking of the marriage tie (*a vinculo matrimonii.*) The former involved the necessity of the husband paying alimony; the latter set the two parties perfectly free of the bond, but it never meant that the freedom included the right or liberty on the part of either of the parties to enter into fresh matrimonial relations with others. We desire to impress this fact clearly on the minds of our readers; for it is a misunderstanding of the true nature of the word "divorce," that has led to serious falsification of history and Hindu law. Divorce means an abeyance of the marriage tie, temporary or permanent, and more or less complete according to circumstances, but it by itself means no marriage afterwards, implied or express. Such marriage may take place, does take place, and did take place, but never as a part or sequence of a divorce— no more than a death taking place after divorce. We have shown above that even after absolute divorce the Roman law did prohibit marriage at times for a period of five years. It is well known that in England the most absolute decree of dissolution of marriage did not suffice to enable the divorcee to contract a second marriage without committing the offence of bigamy. The only means of contracting a marriage after a divorce in England was a special law,—a private bill passed by the House of Lords to enable a party to marry. These private bills covered only one case at a time, and cost over ten thousand rupees. The injustice of this arrangement was once very sarcastically noticed by Mr. Justice Maule, who, addressing a poor man convicted of bigamy in 1845, whose first wife had robbed him, and run away with another man, said:—"You should have brought an action and obtained damages, which the other side would probably not have been able to pay, and you would have had to pay your own costs, perhaps a hundred or a hundred and fifty pounds. You should then have gone to the ecclesiastical courts and obtained a divorce *a mensa et thoro*, and then to the House of Lords, where, having proved that these preliminaries had been complied with, you would have been enabled to marry again. The expense might amount to five or six hundred or perhaps one thousand pounds. You say you are a poor man. But I must tell you that there is not one law for the rich and another for the poor."

It will doubtless be noticed that the term "divorce" is used throughout, but it gave no power of marriage. When Milton wrote his famous essay on Divorce to justify the House of Lords passing private Bills sanctioning marriage, he had no idea that the term "divorce" included in it the power of marriage afterwards. It is observable, too, that in the "Divorce and Matrimonial Causes Act of 1857," the term "divorce" occurs nowhere, except in the title, the divorce *a mensa et thoro* becoming "judicial separation," and the *a vinculo* "dissolution of marriage." Nor did the dissolution by itself create the right of marriage. The law-givers had to provide a special clause for it, and accordingly Section 57 of the Act says that after the dissolution, "it shall be lawful for the respective parties thereto to marry again, as if the prior marrriage had been dissolved by death."

It is worthy of note, too, that when this law was passed, the English legislature had grave doubts about the consonance of the law with the teachings of the Bible, and a provision was made in theAct to protect the conscience of the clergy, leaving it optional with them to celebrate the marriage of divorcees or not as they thought best. In the Code Civil of 1803, the French reformers,following the Roman law, provided a probation of three years before a new marriage, and in the case of dissolution of marriage for adultery the wife condemned was liable, on the prosecution of a public officer, to be punished with confinement for a period not less than three months and not exceeding two years. Under the English Act the ground of divorce for a husband is adultery, and for a wife incestuous adultery, bigamy, cruelty, desertion, and certain unnameable offences.

We have gone into these tedious details with a double object; first, to show what divorce really means, and second, to prove that the Hindus, though they look upon marriage as the most holy of sacraments, the greatest of *sanskaras*, still provide for a complete dissolution of marriage under certain circumstances. The first point, we believe, we have made clear enough. As regards the second, the opinion of experts seems to be dead against us. Babu Jogendra Chandra Bhattacharji, in his recent Commentary on "Hindu Law" says—"Divorce or dissolution of marriage is unknown in the written laws of the Hindus; but there are some low castes in the Bombay Presidency, in Assam, and certain other places, among whom the practice of divorce and marriage of divorced wives prevail." He argues also that "a virtuous wife can never be forsaken, for *tyaga* is one thing and *adhivedana* or supercession is another thing." In this he follows Dr. Gurudass Banerji's Tagore Law Lectures for 1878, in which we are told:—"As a rule, divorce in the ordinary sense of the word has been unknown in Hindu Society."The "ordinary sense,"being apparently remarriage after the dissolution of the first marriage. Mr. Mandlik,i n his translation of the *Vyavahara Mayukha*,writes in the same strain. He says divorce "is not known to the Smriti writers. But usage has superseded texts in the case of all the lower castes." These opinions are, however, due to a notion that divorce includes the power of a new marriage, and any abandonment or *tyaga*, which cannot be followed by a new marital contract is not *ipso facto* a *divorce*. But as we have shown that such was not the sense of divorce in England, the assumption of the non-existence of divorce in Hindu law is obviously wrong. *Tyaga* and *parityaga*, with their verbal forms *tyajet* and *parityajet*, are in constant use in Sanskrit law books. This *tyaga*, or abandonment. can be made only for certain well-defined reasons, otherwise it becomes invalid. The immediate consequence of this abandonment is exclusion from inheritance, and a more positive proof of the dissolution of marriage can scarcely be produced. It is marriage that gives the right to inheritance, and as long as that marriage lasts the right also lasts; but dissolve the marriage and the right *ipso facto* ceases. To avoid prolixity we confine our attention here to dissolution of marriage on the grounds of unchastity only. We are aware of the discussions which certain recent trials in our courts gave rise to, but we need take no notice of the errors and misconceptions of English Judges in the exposition of Hindu law, of which they knew nothing, and in which they groped about with the aid of unreliable English translations. Besides our object is historical and not judical, and we cannot be bound down by erroneous precedents. Our law does not insist upon a *tyaga*, or abandonment, immediately after the occurrence of an act of unchastity. The system of expiation, or *prayaschitta*, first comes into play. The guilty party is obliged to dwell in a hut near the family house, living upon such dressed rice and water as her husband may provide her with, perform frequent *Prajapatya*, *Chandrayana*, or other penance for one, two orthree years, and thereby expiate her offence and be restored to the family. Should she, however, decline or fail to do all these, or their legal substitutes, she must be formally expelled. The ceremony for the expulsion is called *Ghatasphota*. At dusk, on the 9th of the moon, the husband with his kinsmen, family-priest and a public officer should proceed to the bank of a river; there set up an old earthen pitcher filled with filthy water, repeat thereon certain *mantras* declaring that by that emblem the performers of the ceremony dissolved all connexion, here and hereafter, with the offender,; and then make a maid servant break the pitcher by kicking it down with her left foot. This breakage is held to be equal to civil death, and the performers of the ceremony emphasized it by fasting one night as for a mourning impurity, and then purifying themselves by bathing. Our law-books tell us that this is an exequial ceremony, and the party for whom it is performed not only ceases to be connected with the family, but is even debarred in her future spiritual life from deriving any benefit from the offering of water or pindas at the periodical *sraddhas*. No mourning is to be observed on the actual death of such sinners. This system of dissolution of marriage is the most complete that human ingenuity has ever devised, and it is not a little surprising that in the face of it there should be people among us, and learned ones too, who should tell us that the Hindu law does not recognise divorce. That the pack should take up the cry of the leading hounds is but natural, and we need not, therefore, take notice of the *profanum vulgus* who join in the cry.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES

HIS EXCELLENCY the Viceroy reached Simla on Friday last.

MR. H. B. Medlicott, long the Superintendent of the Geological Survey of India will retire from the service on the last day of this month.

DURING Sir Alfred Croft's absence on deputation to Simla the officiating Directorship of Public Instruction in Bengal will be held by Mr. Tawney.

MR. LYALL will open new Railway Bridge over the Satlej at Firozepur on the 30th instant. The Bridge over Kali Nadi will be opened by Sir Alfred Lyall on the 24th.

OUR Corporation have fixed Mr. Cotton's allowances as Chairman at Rs. 3500. They had a tough fight at Thursday's meeting over the question of granting bonuses to the Engineers for laying the new main. The majority determined to suspend the question no longer but to decide it one way or another. The proposal is to fee Mr. Kimber with 10000 Rs, the wife of the late Mr. Fenwick with 10000 Rs, and the other Engineers with Rs. 5000. The Engineers saved a lot of money, it is said, by doing the work departmentally, and were promised a liberal *buckshis*. The question, however, has been referred to the water supply Committee for final determination.

THE Behar Assam Railway is making head, we are glad to hear. The local Government has sanctioned grants of sixteen lacs of rupees for Purnea and Dinajpore Division of the work which is being pushed on with so great vigour that more than half a mile of road is being completed every day. The Purnobhola bridge is expected to be completed by the end of the next month, when the line from Dinajpore to Ranigung, a distance of 30 miles, will be open for traffic.

SIR LEPEL GRIFFIN must be given the credit of never being ashamed of showing himself in his true colors. He is a pronounced enemy of

Indian aspirations, and his article on the Public Service Commission in the last number of the *Asiatic Quarterly Review* is but one more manifestation of his creed. It is said, the article states very forcibly the feelings of Anglo-Indian administrators on the subjects connected with the Commission." Sir Lepel appears to fear that the evidence taken by the Commission is all drawn from "one class of Natives." Sir Lepel is at times facetious as the following passage will show. "The power of misquoting Shakespeare or mis-understanding Darwin will not save the Empire. It is stated that the Capitol was once saved by the cackling of geese, but it would not be wise to count on a repetition of the miracle; and not a single Bengali Baboo, from Assam to the Sunderbunds, would fire a shot for the English if they were engaged in a war *a l'outrance* with Russia." We do not care to deal with filth and garbage such as this seriously, except for bringing them to public exposure.

GENERAL Kharga Shamsher Junge, Commander-in-chief of the Nepal forces, who figured so notoriously in the late bloody revolution to which his aged uncle general Ranbir Sing fell a victim has been, it is announced, deported from the capital, and general Ran Sham Sher has now his place. The revolution in this instance has been quiet, but the details of it are not yet in hand.

OUR contemporary the *Englishman* evidently despairs of so desirable a consummation as the total exclusion of natives from public service. As the lesser of two evils he would run the risk of having certain minor Districts entirely officered by natives who would be controlled from outside by the European officers of the neighbouring District, keeping a distance in their anxiety to avoid native contamination and to keep their happy family' isolated and intact. Our contemporary, however, takes good care to provide that the native District Magistrate should neither get as high pay nor occupy the same position as his English confrere. No amount of pay would make him the same, and it is not in any way desirable that his position and influence should be of the same kind. He would cease to be head of the Police, owing to the administrative charges, and whatever, power he exercised would have to be through the ordinary law. It is only in revenue matters that he would necessarily have the same powers as the present District officers, and these might be with safety entrusted to him, as the Commissioner is able to exercise a amost complete control." We dare say the Service Commission will take note of so excellent scheme to defeat the cause of justice.

JUSTICE MACPHERSON presides at the third criminal session of the High Court which opens to-day. The Calender is not a heavy one, and the cases are mostly of forgery.

MR. BUCKLAND officiates for Mr. Cotton as senior Secretary to the Board of Revenue. Mr. Westmacott goes to Burdwan as the officiating Commissioner on Mr. Wilson going on leave for five weeks, and Mr. Ritchie of Serampore takes Mr. Westmacott's place at Howrah.

MR. BOURKE, the popular Governor of Madras, has been raised to the pearage. His Excellency takes the title of Lord Connemara.

THE *Amrita Bazar Patrika* has given circulation to certain serious charges against a high officer of Government, which should not be overlooked. In the interest of the public service it is desirable that the Government should hold an enquiry. The officer concerned will, we trust, sue the publisher of the *Patrika* for defamation, if the charges be, as we fancy they are, false.

THE annual meeting of the Senate of the Calcutta University, which came off on Saturday before last was one of some importance. Sir William Hunter's scheme for encouraging and assisting translations and critical editions of the early vernacular texts of Bengal, and Mr. Grierson's proposal to extend the scheme to Behar and the N. W. P. came on for discussion. Dr. Rajendralala Mitra, while feeling a vital interest in an attempt for the preservation of the early literature of the country, thought it his duty to oppose the measure as it was no part of the duties of the University to do so, as it was not legally competent to do so under its charter. They could only do what the law provided, and nothing more, and the law did not provide for the reproduction in this country of counterparts of the Cambridge Press. It did not provide for any monopoly for printing Bibles and Calendars which Oxford and Cambridge enjoyed at one time. It did not provide for the disbursement of money or the maintenance of a press, or the publication of miscellaneous works. The University was established solely for holding examinations, and for the purpose of levying fees, and the expenditure of the fee fund could be applied only to conducting examinations and maintaining the University. There was not a syllable in the section of the charter relating to this, which provided the reproduction of old texts. If the University did so they would place themselves in the same position as certain municipalities which voted away money for other than municipal purposes. There was a large balance in hand, and if this was so, instead of devoting it to this purpose, the amount of fees levied from students should be reduced. The objection he had urged being a legal one, he had to move an amendment "that the subject be referred back to the Syndicate with the view of ascertaining how far the Syndicate is in a position to devote the funds of the University to the publication of Bengali and Hindi works totally unconnected with the schome of the education". Babu Krishna Bihari Sen, who seconded the learned Doctor, was not unfortunately equally happy in his reasoning. He did not regard the lives of Krishna and Ram—the one subject according to him of Bengali educutional literature—as an edifying subject. "There was, of course, a certain religious value attaching to these works, but they all dealt with love, and the misfortune in India was that the spirit of love had been so etherealised as to have become a positive nuisance. Another point was that religious sects who were mostly concerned with these works should be left to see that correct translations were made of them. This was a matter for private enterprize". Those that attach religious value to the lives of Rama and Krishna will rightly demur to this spirit of vandalism and this should have exactly been the last reason why the Senate should have rejected Sir W. Hunter's proposal. The Hon'ble Ananda Mohan Basu, Nawab Abdul Latif Khan Bahadur and several others supported Dr. Mitra and his amendment was eventually carried.

THE next business of importance done by the Senate at their annual meeting was the unanimous adoption of the following resolutions:—

(1) "That the Senate desires to place on record its regret that the present limit of age for entering the Indian Civil Service excludes from that service all graduates who have passed through a complete course of liberal education at this University.

(2) "That a copy of the above resolution be forwarded to the President of the Public Service Commission for consideration."

The following recommendation of the Syndicate to the Senate, which had been agreed to by the Entrance Examination Committee now sitting, is to be made applicable to the Entrance Examination for 1887, subject to the proviso that no candidate who would have passed under the old rules be rejected:—

(1) "That in order to pass a candidate he be required to obtain 30 per cent. of marks in English and 25 per cent. in the remaining subjects.

(2) "That subject to the above proviso, a minimum of 33 per cent. in the aggregate be considered necessary to enable a candidate to pass.

(3) "That the classification of passed candidates remain as it is at present, namely, that candidates obtaining 40 per cent. be placed in the second division."

The slaughter of innocents in the Jubilee year will, therefore, be considerably stemmed, it is hoped.

WE are glad that the Senate reappointed Dr P. K. Roy their Registrar for a term of two years. During the short time that the learned Doctor has been in office, he has discharged his duties most thoroughly, and satisfactorily and he fully merits this renewed mark of confidence.

SOME of our friends lately took us to task for questioning the gallantry of Sir Rivers Thompson, and denouncing him for his conduct towards certain high born ladies of this country. Our first charge was about the Maharani of Tikhari whom Mr. Barton and Mr. Reynolds hounded to a miserable death and the Government attempted to excuse its *insouciance* by gazetting her as a Maharani after her death. We have not heard any thing lately of the lady of Chittagong, but Government admitted the fault of the local officers long after date by transferring some of the offenders from the district. The chief offender was the Commissioner, but he was, it is said, a brother-in-law of the then Lieutenant-Governor. The offence against the Dowager Maharani of Burdwan was so mercilessly exposed by the High Court that the Government had (very gracelessly no doubt) to surrender to her her property, and the dispute about the adoption in which a young lady was being forced to accept as her adopted son, a child whom she could only hate all her life, is also being settled. Our last illustration was the case of the Maharani of Khurda. How far we were just or unjust towards Sir Rivers Thompson will be best explained by the following extract from a letter which the Maharanis' pleader has written to the *Statesman*. "On Saturday last Mr. Nolan, the Secretary who has the management of the case, Mr Metcalfe the Commissioner of Orissa, and I talked over the matter, and it was decided that the case should be amicably settled. I understood from Mr. Nolan that Government did not intend to take away the management of the temple from the Ranee's hand, that it was not its intention to interfere with the financial arrangements, and that Government did not know anything of the attachment, appointment of Receiver, and other proceedings connected with the matter till the Rani appealed to the High Court. The terms proposed by Mr. Nolan are reasonable, and I am sure the Rani will agree to them. But as this cannot be done without the formal sanction of the Indian Government, the Indian Government has been or will shortly be written to, and on receipt of such sanction the matter will be settled." All honor to Sir Steuart Bayley for having intervened to put a stop to this disgraceful judicial scandal.

RUMOURS of differences between His Highness the Nizam of Hydrabad and Sir Salar Jung had been rife for a long time, and every now and then *quid nuncs* proclaimed a crisis. It must be in the recollection of our readers, that such a crisis came to a head, some three years ago, when Sir Steuart Bayley went to patch up a peace. The embers of the quarrel were, however, left smouldering and when they were next about to break into a flame Lord Dufferin himself went down to reconcile the contending parties, and he left a trusted English Officer, Colonel Marshall, as a standing check to any overt quarrel. His advice and his precautionary measures have alike proved ineffectual, and the principals have again fallen out and this time the mischief has been completed by the resignation by Sir Salar Jung of his office of Chief Minister. Appearances, however, have been preserved, on the one side by assigning ill-health as the cause of resignation, and on the other by sanctioning to the retiring Minister a pension of Rs. 7000 per month for life. The rumour is that Sir Salar Jang will at once proceed either to England or to the Hills (Simla?) for a change. His successor has not yet been appointed.

On dit that Maharaja Luchmeswar Sing of Durbhanga, who had been lately feting the Viceroy in right regal style, is to be honored with the allowance of a salute of 9 guns.

LOCAL.

THE BRITISH INDIAN ASSOCIATION CALCUTTA.

The Thirty-fifth Annual General Meeting of the British Indian Association.

(*Continued from page 199.*)

IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT.

The Committee in reply to Government letter, No. 1145 J. D., (Judicial) dated 7th July, 1886, forwarding a copy of a Bill to amend the law relating to imprisonment for debt, submitted their opinion on the 14th of August last. The Bill was divided into 12 Sections. The most important were the following:—

Section 2 provided for the introduction of the Act in the United Provinces of the North-West and Oudh, but gave power to any Local Government, with the previous sanction of the Governor-General-in-Council, to extend it to any territory, or part of territory, under it, or to any class of debtors residing therein.

Section 4 laid down that no person should be liable to imprisonment for default of payment of money under a decree, or order, except where such order related to fine, or the defaulter was a trustee, or where he was guilty of conduct involving fraud, or where he had refused, or neglected, to pay although he had the means of paying the debt.

Section 5 vested in the Courts a discretion to grant, or refuse, an application for imprisonment in the case of trustees.

Section 6 laid down by what authority and in what mode rules might be made.

Section 7 imposed additional rigours on imprisonment for civil debt; regulated the period of the debtor's detention; left his release to the discretion of the Court, notwithstanding satisfaction of the decree passed against him, and defined the class of Courts to which appeals against order refusing to set him free would lie.

Section 9 dealt with debtors against whom orders for arrest had been passed before judgment.

Section 10 exempted, from the operation of the Act, cases in which warrants of arrest had been issued before the commencement of the Act.

And Section 11 extended the benefit of the Act to Crown debtors.

The Committee submitted that while they fully appreciated the motive of the measure, they were bound to condemn it from their knowledge of their own countrymen; and they were firmly of opinion that it was unsuited not only to Bengal, but, in a higher degree, to the North-Western Provinces and Oudh. The same Code of Procedure governs the mode of trial of Civil Suits both in those provinces and in Bengal; and the relations which subsist between the debtor and the creditor are the product of the same social forces in the valley of the Upper as well as in that of the Lower Ganges. The recommendations of His Honor the Lieutenant Governor of the North-Western Provinces, and the Hon'ble Judges of the High-Court for the abolition of imprisonment for debt, do not rest upon conclusions drawn from actual experience, but upon *a priori* theoretic grounds which have at best but a dubious value in practical legislation. The Committee submitted that the measure appeared to them to be detrimental to the interests of the community affected by it.

The Committee after carefully weighing the arguments which have been advanced by those who advocate the abolition of imprisonment for debt as well as by those who ask for its retention on the Statute Book submitted that they adhered to the opinion they expressed in their letter to the Government of Bengal, dated the 3rd of March, 1882, in which they stated their deliberate conviction that it would be sapping the very foundations of Indian society, if any such serious change were made in the relations subsisting in this country between the debtor and the creditor. The Bill is yet under consideration.

INDIAN COMPANIES' ACT, 1882.

Your Committee in reply to Government letter, No. 2488IJ., dated 4th August, 1886, forwarding a copy of a Bill to amend the Indian Companies' Act, 20th August, 1886, submitted that although the principle of giving priority to the wages of clerks and workmen in the distribution of the assets of a Company which has been wound up, is sound, and one which commended itself to the Committee, they were, still of opinion that the provisions of the Bill would be defective, if the powers conferred on the liquidator be not made subject to the provisions contained in Sec. 201 of the Act. They had also to draw the attention of the Legislature to the question as to whether after clerks and workmen had been paid their wages, in accordance with the proposed amendment, they might not come in for a share of the assets like other creditors and contributories.

ADULTERATION OF GHI.

There was considerable excitement in Calcutta, in October last, when it was discovered that *Ghi* was adulterated by fraudulent dealers with foreign substances, which were injurious to health, and which were considered *impure* by the Hindu Community. Memorials were sent up to Government by the principal public bodies and private individuals praying that measures might be adopted to put a stop to this obnoxious practice. The question raised being of a serious and very urgent nature your Committee represented, on the 28th of August last, that as considerable mischief might be done before any relief on the subject could be given to the community by legislative enactment, His Excellency might be moved to issue an Ordinance, under section 23 of the India Council Act, 1861, declaring it to be penal to adulterate *Ghi* with such substances as offend the religious susceptibilities of the persons for whom it is intended for sale. The penalty they proposed for the offence might not exceed a fine of Rs. 500.

The Committee's letter was sent up to the Government of India by the Bengal Government, but as His Honor the Lieutenant Governor came down to Calcutta from Darjiling for the special purpose of enacting a short law on the subject, there was no necessity for the issue of an Ordinance. The law was passed in August last and is now in full operation in the town and suburbs of Calcutta.

After the Act came into operation, Government requested the opinion of the Committee on the subject of a general law regarding adulteration of food, and the Committee in reply stated that they were well aware of the difficulties and dangers which beset legislation regarding adulteration of food, and that the working of the law in England, which has been in operation for more than 25 years (there being special machinery for its operation) has been anything but satisfactory. The Committee quoted Dr. Lethby's remarks in his work on food to the effect that even in a place like the city of London where the Statute of 1860 has been in operation and public analysts appointed, no good has been done; the law stands upon the Statute Book as a dead letter. They observed that although by the Statute of 1875 certain defects were remedied and a wider scope given to the law the difficulty of effectually administering it is found to be almost as great as ever. In this country the difficulties would be very great for the successful carrying out of a law on this subject. The evidence for proving adulteration must be of a professional character, and this cannot be obtained in the Mafassil, where there are no public analysts. The people cannot afford, and the Mafusil Municipalities are mostly too poor, to entertain their services. The Committee cannot entertain without grave apprehension, the idea, of prosecutions by persons who may feel aggrieved. Such a procedure would only lead to vindictive prosecution in the case of poorer classes of vendors, which would prove a greater evil than the adulterated food. Were the power of prosecution vested in the Police greater evil would thereby be caused. The Committee, under the circumstances, submitted that a law similar to that passed by the Bengal Government, be passed by the other provincial councils and by the Supreme Legislative Councils, empowering His Excellency the Viceroy and the local Goverments to put it into operation in any city, Municipality, and other tract of country where it may be needed. They observed that in questions which affect the religious susceptibilities of the people it is necessary to be forearmed and not enough to be forewarned.

THE FINANCE COMMITTFE.

On the 2nd of April last, a communication, No. 2, dated 24th March, 1886, was received by your Committee from the Secretary to the Finance Committee, appointed by the Government of India, by a Resolution dated 10th February, 1886, for the purpose of examining into State expenditure. Their reply was sent on 9th September, giving in detail their suggestions for the curtailment of expenditure in the different departments. They submitted that the remodelling of the Provincial contracts was essential; that the home charges should form a legitimate subject for enquiry; that the scale of salaries should be revised; and that the appointment of a Public Works member of the Supreme Council should in future be dispensed with. They further suggested the abolition of the post of Secretary in the Revenue and Agricultural Department, and its amalgamation with the Home Department of which it was a part before. Attention was invited to the enormous expenses annually incurred in the exodus of the Imperial and of the several local Governments. They submitted that the cost of the staff of the Legislative Secretariat of this Province should be reduced; and that the Directorship of Agriculture in Bengal might be safely dispensed with. The abolition of the Board of Revenue, and of some of the Divisional Commissionerships of the Lower Provinces, was also recommended. The salaries of the Magistrates of Districts should not, in their opinion, exceed Rs. 1800 a month. They further represented the necessity of abolishing the posts of District and Assistant Superintendents of Police, and of giving over the control of the Police to the Magistrate. They said that inquiries should be instituted as to the necessity of keeping up the offices of the Deputy Inspectors General. They advocated for a far more extended employment of indigenous agency in the administration than had hitherto been the case. It was shown that the maintenance of the Cooper's Hill College was unnecessary, and that the Home charges might be brought to the control of the India Government.

The Committee are glad to state that the reply received from the Secretary to the Finance Committee, on the 24th of September last, was to the effect that such points as would fall within the scope of their enquiries would receive their careful consideration.

THE CIVIL PROCEDURE CODE.

A Bill to amend the Code of Civil Procedure was introduced into the Council of the Governor General on the 1st of September 1886. Your Committee offered their suggestions with reference to it on the 15th of November, 1886. They stated that the language was ambiguous in certain places, *e. g.* it was very doubtful whether a string of loose papers would come under the designation of a "book;" whether the provisions for the return of documents by Court would extend to Thokas, measurement Chittas, and Jumma Wasil Baki papers, which are usually stitched papers and not bound in the form of books. They suggested that the doubt should be removed, and the law made expressly applicable to Zemindari papers, whether bound in books, or simply stitched papers. They represented that the doubt expressed in Sec. 10 might be more conveniently removed by amending Sec. 111, than by making the proposed addition to Sec. 116. Regarding Sec. 11 the Committee pointed out that the change therein proposed would be extremely detrimental to the interests of the community

affected by it. They suggested that the additions proposed to Sec. 245 should be abandoned, and the section should be left untouched. Sec. 12 (2) was objected to, as the Procedure Code should contain a complete and comprehensive description of properties and particulars which are exempted from attachment and sale in execution of decrees for money. Regarding Sec. 16 (3) the Committee stated that in a large number of cases the appointment of a reciever was wholly unnecessary. Sec, 16 (5) should be corrected and every care taken, in the drafting of the amendments contemplated by this subsection, so as to avoid the very objectionable alteratioin in the law of insolvency which the omission involves.

REGISTRATION OF PERMANENT TENURES.

Your Committee submitted to Government their opinion on the Bill for the Registration of Permanent Tenures. The Committee would have hailed the proposed measure with gratitude, if the avowed objects of the measure could be attained without much trouble and harassment, but they were afraid the measure, if passed, would flood the country with litigation; and they, therefore, could make no other suggestion than that submitted in their letter of the 22nd of February last. Your Committee are glad to be able to state that the project has since been abandoned.

SUPPLY OF PROVISIONS TO TROOPS ON MARCH.

The Committee had sent up to the Government of Sir Ashley Eden a memorial pointing out the hardship inflicted on the Zemindars by the orders of Government for the supply of provisions to troops on march. A recent case illustrating the evils of the present system was brought to light in a Behar newspaper, the *Indian Chronicle*, in its issue of the 29th of March. The Commitee felt it necessary to move the Government once more on the subject, and they accordingly submitted a memorial to His Honor the Lieutenant Governor. The Committee have since received a reply intimating that effect has been given to two of the recommendations of the Committee.

THE NATIONAL CONGRESS.

In September last, your Committee recived a letter from the working Committee of the National Congress intimating that the second National Congress would meet in Calcutta, in December, and that representative men from all parts of the country were expected to come and take part in the proceedings. Your Committee were invited to help the Reception Committtee, and to send delegates to the Congress. Your Committee rendered cordial help to the promoters of the movement. Preliminary meetings of the Provisional Committee of the Congress were held at the rooms of the Association. A large meeting, presided over by your President, was held at the Town Hall, on December 27, to give a public reception to the delegates. Your President in warmly welcoming them, in the name of the citizens of of Calcutta, remarked: "It has been the dream of my life, that the scattered units of my race may some day coalesce and come together; that instead of living merely as indviduals, we may some day so combine as to be able to live as a nation. In this meeting I behold the commencement of such coalescence." Adverting to the mode in which the business of the Congress should be conducted, he said: "Let your speakers speak moderately; let your schemes be moderate; and let your resolutions be so framed that *no* Government can have any occasion to complain of want of moderation." These words found a ready response in the Assembly. Popular enthusiasm was manifested to a remarkable extent throughout the town during the sitting of the Congress, and the delegates were greatly cheered in their deliberations by the warm interest evinced in them by all classes of the community. The first business meeting was held at the rooms of the Association. The Congress was a decided success. The delegates were received with open arms wherever they went; and the Committee are glad to report that the delegates also were much pleased with the reception they met in Calcutta.

MUFASSIL POLICE REFORM.

In pursuance of a Resolution passed at the half yearly meeting held in September last, your Committee have framed a number of questions with a view to ascertain the opinions of leading members of the native community in the Mafassil on this important subject. These questions are being circulated. As soon as the replies are received, your Committee will submit their report for your consideration.

ASSESSMENT OF INCOME TAX ON HOME-STEADS.

The reply which your Committee received to their representation to the Board of Revenue on the illegality and injustice of the attempt, made in several districts, by Income Tax assessors, of assessing rents on home-steads, market-lands and brick-lands &c., was reported to you at the last half yearly meeting. In compliance with the suggestions made at that meeting, the Committee wrote to the Bengal Government, more than five months ago, a letter complaining of the tone of the reply of the Board of Revenue, and of their unwillingness to set right an erroneous construction of the law, in an unauthorised publication, circulated by an officer, who is subordinete to them; and praying that the Board be directed to give a proper construction of the law on the subject of assessment of such lands, and to give the necessary publicity to such construction. The Committee regret to say that they have not yet been favored with a reply.

REPAIRS OF THE ASSOCIATION PREMISES

Your Committee have "to report that the repairs of the Association premises have been completed at a cost of Rs. 1273—4—3.

OBITUARY.

The Committee deeply regret to annouce the severe loss which the Association has sustained by the death of the following members:—

Raja Harendra Krishna, Babu Sagore Dutt, Jagadish Nath Roy, and Raja Sama Nath Roy Chaudhuri.

The Secretary then submitted an abstract Statement of receipts and disbursements during the past year.

Babu Sarat Chundra Roy Chowdhury moved, and Babu Sita Nath Ray seconded that the report be received and approved.

Babu Rama Nath Ghose proposed, and Babu BinodeBehari Mullick seconded that the Accounts be passed as correct.

The President before putting the resolutions to the vote said:

Gentlemen, before I put to the vote resolutions that have been just moved and seconded, it is a source of much satisfaction to me to be able to congratulate you on the success and the general prosperity of your Association. The report laid on the table shows clearly that as regards one item and that of the utmost importance to private individuals as well as to public bodies, *i. e.*, funds, you are in a thriving position. The accounts on the table show that your income during the past year amounted to Rs. 9,388, besides a cash balance of the previous year of Rs. 5,346, making a total of Rs. 14,734. Against this, your expenses came up to Rs. 11,783, leaving a balance in hand of Rs. 2,951. The balance may be small, but I have this satisfaction that very few public political bodies in Calcutta can produce a better outturn for the year's work. You have besides this Government Securities to the amount of Rs. 23,000 now in deposit with the Bank of Bengal. Your member list has also extended, and I shall presently have to ask your vote for the confirmation of the elections that have been made during the past half-year by your Committee. On the different subjects which engaged your Committee's attention, you have already got a report. This report, as read, is somewhat different in its arrangements from what you received in former years. The annual report generally recapitulates all intermediate reports. In this instance, however, not to increase unnecessarily the bulk of your report, your Committee have thought proper to shut out all details regarding the work performed during the first six months of the year's works involving many important subjects, such as the income-tax, the law relating to village watchmen, the registration of permanent tenures, the levy of zamindary dawks, the proposed Royal Commission, the rent difficulty, the draft rules for the conduct of elections in the Mofussil, Police reform, and the latest dates for the payment of Government revenue. I need say nothing now in regard to them, nor would I take up your time by dwelling upon those subjects which have been mentioned in detail in the report. The details have been already read to you. One subject which interested or rather produced a commotion in native society in Calcutta was the adulteration of *ghi*. We are thankful that the late Lieutenant-Governor thought fit to pass a special law on the subject. That showed a desire on the part of Government to meet all reasonable complaints of the people. In so far the Act was a gracious help. But that it has been of any great value I cannot say. On the contrary, my belief has always been that such intermeddling is always liable to do mischief. Up to the latest date our enquiries have shown that the chemists have not yet succeeded in devising thoroughly reliable tests for ascertaining the purity of *ghi*. The other day, I had occasion to speak to the Health Officer on the subject. I asked him if he had got a standard fixed. He told me plainly that such a standard had not yet been established, and that the ordinary test of specific gravity varied in different specimens of pure *ghi* from 907 to 911. Now, the result is, that in many cases, as some of my friends sitting as Magistrates in the Police Court can testify, the court does fine away in the face of unreliable proof. A *ghi* of 907 specific gravity is pure *ghi*, and yet a specimen of *ghi* which would give a specific gravity of 911 would not be much lower than 907 when adulterated with a moderate proportion of vegetable or animal fat. In such cases, grave injustice is done to the dealer. In other cases, where allowance is made for the fluctuating quality of *ghi*, the position is altered, and persons guilty of adulteration do escape scot free. The one is as bad as the other. For my part I dislike to see any man unjustly punished as much as I dislike to see offenders escape on account of want of positive evidence. However, this is a purely scientific question, and your Association here cannot do much to rectify it. It rests with our chemists to devise positive proof and to thoroughly analyse *ghi*, not by one specimen but by dozens, and thereby establish such a standard as should give us perfect safety in declaring what is adulterated and what is pure. The prevailing idea is that *ghi* is butter, and nothing more or less; but it is a mistaken one. Chemically, *ghi* and butter are not identical. Butter is an amorphous substance, perfectly free from *Margarene*, a crystallized animal principle. When butter is melted and converted into *ghi*, you all have seen that it is a highly crystallized article; that shows that *ghi* is not simply melted butter, but butter converted into a different substance in which *Margarene* is prominent.

Most of the other subjects noted in the report refer to bills which are still in process of gestation, and it will be of no use to dwell on them at present. There is one subject which deserves attention, and in regard to which representations have been made. It was with regard to the assessment of Income-tax on homesteads, markets, and so forth. These properties are subject to the Road-cess, and by law those properties which contribute to the road-cess should not be again taxed for the income-tax; but by a ruling of the Commissioner of the Income-tax they have been made assessable and your Committee thought proper to draw the attention of the Board of Revenue to the subject. In a very curt and uncourteous letter the Board said that they would not take our representations into consideration, for in such matters they expected the parties aggrieved to appeal. This matter was then referred to the Government of Bengal, but the late Government of Bengal did not think it necessary to show us even the ordinary courtesy of acknowledging receipt of our representation. That representation was made some months ago, and it remains yet unacknowledged.

On occasions like this, it is the painful duty of your Chairman to report to you the losses which you have sustained by death during the year, and I regret deeply to announce that we have lost several very valuable members. The first and the most prominent name in the list of our obituary is that of my late lamented friend Raja Harendra Krishna, Bahadoor. He was a member from almost the beginning of the Association, and held the office of Vice-President for several years. He was very regular in his attendance at our Committee meetings, and took a deep interest in all the different subjects which were brought before it. In losing him, you have lost a man who was a very useful member, and an earnest well-wisher of this Association. (Cheers,) The next name is that of Babu Sagore Dutt. His mercantile avocations kept him greatly engaged in his work, and he was not always able to attend our meetings; but he took a deep interest in our welfare, and I regret to have to announce his death. I have next to notice the death of Babu Jagadish Nath Roy. He was a member of only a few years' standing, but he was a member of your Committee, and did much to co-operate with the members of the Committee in regard to many subjects in which he brought special knowledge of Mufussil affairs to help the Committee in their deliberations. The last name is that of Rajah

Shamanath Roy. He was a Mofussil member and, therefore, could not take that interest in our work here which you could wish, but he was a regular correspondent, and showed his deep interest in particular movements by contributing freely to all subjects of importance which require special help. Coming out of the range of the past year, for our report closes with the 31st December last, I cannot on the present occasion forget another name. It is that of Raja Rajendra Mullick, who died only the other day. He was a member of our Association for a very long time ; he contributed very largely in support of all public charities, and was noted particularly for his urbanity. A more accomplished and finished gentleman than him you could not get in all Calcutta (hear, hear, and cheers.) His liberality was princely, and in losing him the citizens of Calcutta have lost an accomplished gentleman and a most benevolent, worthy member of society (hear, hear,) and the poor of Calcutta have lost a father (cheers.). You must all remember that during the famine of 1865-66 he fed more than 5,000 paupers daily, and for months. He contributed Rs. 40,000 for the support of such orphans as fell in the hands of the famine Committee, and as a rule gave food and alms to more than a thousand persons daily at his houses from year's end to year's end for many years together. This is a predication which I am afraid I cannot assign to many persons in Calcutta, and it would be no exaggeration to say that he was in our community a Peabody. He has left a worthy heir in Kumar Debendra Mullick, but what grieves me most is that his health has been failing for a long time. All I can wish is that he may under Divine blessing regain his health, and live long to perpetuate the memory of his illustrious father (cheers.).

The next subject to which I shall allude is one which must have engaged your attention to a large extent. It is the Public Service Commission. I must frankly acknowledge that I never calculated upon much good from that Commission. What will come out of it, is yet in the womb of futurity ; but great evil has arisen from it. I complain not of the extreme diversity of opinion that has been elicited. It is but natural that opinions should differ, and no amount of difference of opinion can do much harm ; on the contrary, the attrition of different opinions against each other is calculated to elicit truth. What I deplore most is the feeling of race-antagonism which the depositions of many witnesses have evoked. I had hoped that the evil had been buried in the tomb of the Capulets never to be exhumed. But it has come to life, and is in a variety of ways doing much harms. This is much to be regret-ted.

There was another Commission of the Government working during the past year, but it has now come to a close. It was the Salaries Commission. It was appointed in 1885, and it submitted its report sometime at the end of last year. The resolution of Government on that report appeared only the other day, and has been very aptly designated by the *Englishman* as "posthumous." I have had the opportunity of reading the report, a very bulky one, extending to 600 pages folio, and I must in justice to the Commissioners say that they have brought together an enormous mass of information which cannot fail to be of great use for administrative purposes. I was particularly struck by the bold line adopted by the native member of the commission, Babu Durgagati Bannerji, who, differing from his colleagues, has recorded a long and very able minute on the subject. But having said thus much, I am bound to add that the report has fallen still-born. Out of a total of 36 recommendations the Government has thought fit to adopt only the four of the smallest and most insignificant ones. The rest, that is, 32 out of 36, have been relegated to the limb of oblivion or the whiteants of the Bengal Office.

I must next refer you to a subject in which your Association took a considerable interest. It is the memorial to Sir Ashley Eden. The resolution of the Town Hall meeting was to perpetuate the memory of that distinguished gentleman by erecting a marble statue in the metropolis. That statue has now been erected, and I am sure that most of you have very much admired it, both as a work of art, and as a faithful likeness. Your relation with Sir Ashley Eden dates from almost the commencement of this Association, and your relation had been most friendly and sympathetic. He took a deep interest in the success of this Association, as well as in the welfare and advancement of individual members of it, and you have done well in acknowledging your gratitude and sense of respect for him by this monument. But while I refer to the relation of this Association with a past Governor, I am bound to add that your relations with the rulers of the land have been happily generally very satisfactory ones. Perhaps with a single exception every Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal from 1855 has done a good deal, though not always as much as we could reasonably expect him to do, to carry out the object of your wishes, wants and feelings, as far as they could judge from their stand-point. You must remember that you of this country and our rulers hold positions on the opposite sides of the shield ; the side of the shield which you see is not that which they see, and it is but natural that differences of opinion most frequently arise, and it is satisfactory that, notwithstanding this drawback, if you have a good manager you can agree upon many points. Your position is peculiarly difficult: you stand as a buffer between two forces. Your duty is in the first instance to explain the views of Government to the people, and if people be, as under particular circumstances they must be, very much excited in regard to any particular measure or act of Government, and you, acting as a moderator, try to bring your weight to bear against them, they will at times think ill of you. On the other hand, as the representatives of the people your business is to represent freely, frankly and fearlessly the wants, wishes and feelings of people before Government, and in doing so you stand as my late friend and your late lamented secretary Kristo Das Pal aptly described as "Her Majesty's Opposition." You have more frequently to criticise than to approve the acts of Government. Good acts call for no lengthened criticism, no angry words, no earnest declamation. Generally a mild word of approbation is enough, and the matter ends. But such acts as you do not approve, as are calculated to do you harm, as are not consistent with the spirit of the age and liberality of sentiments, give rise to many words, and they not the sweetest. It may be perfectly true that you are not determined to find fault with every thing, but by the nature of your position you have more often to find fault than to praise. You make no representation, write no letter, when things are getting on satisfactorily ; but every time you have to represent an expression of your views in regard to matters opposed to the interests of the people you are bound to go and oppose opinion that you cannot consistently support; hence it is that you are constantly opposing Government; and it is but human nature that if under the circumstances certain officers of Government should be disposed to think that you are the opponents and not the counsel for those who are the real opponents. Your business is that of counsel, but in a Court of law counsel's position is well understood. In the political world the position of counsel is not so well understood, and people attribute to youthe counsel's acts which do not emanate from any particular member of your Committee, but which emanate from the people and a sense of duty as to what they should do for the people. This has been your principle throughout. You have acted consistently with this principle throughout the last 36 years. And I earnestly hope that as long as this Association lasts so long you will not forget the people at large and their wants. It is solely by thinking of the people at large that you can be useful, and that your existence would be justified. At the same time I must most earnestly pray that you should bear in mind that it is perfectly possible to differ from one another in many points without being rude or unmannerly and that the best possible principle of action on your part will be that of moderation. Let your language, your opinions, and your views, let your representations, memorials and prayers be always moderate. Say frankly and freely what you have to say, but say it in the most courteous and gentlemanly way. This is what is essential for success in this world as much for individuals as for associations. I have no reason to doubt that my friends and colleagues in this Association and those who will follow us will be wanting in bearing this principle prominently in mind, and give it their deepest attention always, at all times, whenever opportunity offers for its observance, and I sincerely hope and trust that no occasion will arise which will give just cause to find fault with this Association for a dereliction of duty in this respect. I have, I fear, already said more and taken up more of your time than I intended, but it has always been my pleasure, great pleasure, in the midst of friends to be garrulous, and that is my only excuse for the remarks which I have now made.

The resolutions that the report be adopted and accounts passed were then put to the vote, and carried unanimously :

The President then asked for the confirmation of the election made by the Committee of the gentlemen as members of the Association :

Babus Jaggannath Khanah, Burra Bazar, 2. Chundeelal Singh, Debipur, 3. Kumar Ranajit Singh of Nashipore, Moorshedabad, 4. J. N. Ghosal Esq., Kashia Bagan, 5. Ramakant Sen, Calcutta, 6. Brajendra Kumar Ray Chaudhuri, Baripore, 24-Pergunnahs, the Hon'ble Lala Ban Behary Kappor, of Burdwan Raj.

Dr. Rajendralala Mittra proposed, and Raja Durga Churn Law seconded, that Babu Issur Chandra Mittra be elected a member of the Association. *Carried nem con.*

Babu Hari Mohun Bose proposed, and Babu Binod Behari Mullick seconded, that Babu Tinkari Mukerji of Sibpore, Howrah, be elected a member of the Association. *Carried nemcon.*

Babu Baikantha Nath Bose, proposed and Dr. Rajendralala Mittra seconded, that Babu Upendra Chundra Roy, be elected a member of the Association. *Carried nem con.*

The meeting then on the motion of Babu Jagannath Khanna, seconded by Moulavi Fuzzle Rubbi, elected the following gentlemen as office-bearers for the current year :

Moharaja Narendra Krishna Bahadur—*President.* Dr. Rajendralal Mitra, Rai Bahadur, LL.D., C.I.E, His Highness the Maharaja of Hatwa, Babu Joykissen Mookerjee and Babu Jadoolal Mullick—*Vice-Presidents.*

Members of Managing Committee :—His Highness the Hon'ble the Maharaja of Durbhanga, Maharaja Sir Jotendra Mohan Tagore Bahadur, K. C. S. I., Raja Doorga Churn Law, C. I. E., Raja Poorna Chander Sing Bahadur, Kumar Debendra Mullick Bahadur. Mr. Herjebhuy Manickjee Rustomjee, Babu Deno Nath Mullick, Babu Grish Chunder Ghose, Newab Mir Mohamed Ally, Hon'ble Rai Jaiperkash Lal Bahadur, Babus Abhoy Churn Goho, Shama Churn Law, Jogendra Chandra Ghose, Mohini Mohun Ray, Dr. Gooroodas Banerjee, the Hon'ble Kally Nrth Mitter, Babu Sree Nath Chandra, Surendra Nath Pal Chowdhury, Baikantha Natha Basu, Kally Prosonno Ghose, Saligram Singh, Rajkumar Sarvadhikari, Koonja Lal Banerjee, Moulavi Mohamed Yousoff Khan Bahadur, Kumar Sarat Chandra Singh, Babu Saradendra Mohun Tagore, Kumar Denendra Narain Ray, Babu Charoo Chandra Mullick, Koonja Behary Mullik, Bijoy Kissen Mookerjee, Kissory Lal Gossain, Sitanath Ray, Gonesh Chunder Chunder, Dwarika Nath Dutt, Damodar Das Burman, Chandi Lal Sing. The Hon'ble Raja Peary Mohun Mookerjee Bahadur, C.S.I.—*Secretary*, and Babu Dwarka Nath Chukerbutty—*Assistant-Secretary.*

Dr. Rajendralala Mittra then vacated the chair, and invited his successor to occupy the Presidential seat.

Maharaja Narendra Krishna in assuming his office, said :

Gentlemen,—The annual report of the British Indian Association placed before you shows that the Association has not been idle during the period under review indealing with requisitions affecting our interests Representations have been made to Government on various important matters, and though we could not expect that all views would be accepted by it, yet we have no reason to complain that they did not receive a fair consideration at the hands of Government. The report begins with the Guardian and Ward's Bill, on which we have been asked to give an opinion, so that the provisions of the Bill would uniformly apply to all classes of the Queens Empress' subjects in this country. There are, I believe, different conditions attached to the attaining of the age of majority in Calcutta and in the Mufassil. Such divergence in the law should be rectified, and a general rule regulating the age of minority should be applicable to all such cases. It is highly objectionable, and against the usage of Hindu society, if the legality of the marriage of minors be questioned and settled by a Civil Court, which would base its opinion on consultation with persons who may not be relatives of the wards, and whose opinions in such matters would be ignored by the parents and guardians of the minors. Recently the Hindu community of this province were greatly startled on finding that adulteration of *ghi* was practised for a length of time with the admixture of fat and lard of impure animals, making it prohibitive in its application to domestic and religious purposes. We had applied to Government to pass an ordinance which has the potential effect of law against the sale of this much needed article. An ordinance, I believe, can be passed in urgent cases within a fortnight after its introduction, and in the present case this course should have been adopted by Government to prevent dissatisfaction in future among her Majesty's Hindu subjects. Government should always, in cases affecting their loss of caste and religion, avail itself of the power it possesses of

passing an ordinance instead of having recourse to the dilatory mode of usual legislation. The most important subject that lately engaged our attention was the reply to be forwarded to the Finance Committee appointed by our esteemed Viceroy Lord Dufferin. In our communication we proposed to curtail the expenditure. The matter was seriously considered by us. Each member had been requested to express his honest opinion, and the views of the majority prevailed in forming the basis of our reply to the Secretary of the Commission. Extended employment of qualified natives in all departments of the administration has now become inevitable, without which no effective retrenchment is practicable. Our English friends need not be alarmed that we have ignored English supervision where such supervision is actually requisite for good government. The finances of Government have become so low that an Income Tax has been imposed to recoup its exheqner. Proper means should be adopted to restore an equilibrium between income and expenditure. Our warmest acknowledgments are due to the learned and distinguished Doctor Rajendra'ala Mitra for performing the duties of President of our Association with so much credit and distinction during the past year. I cordially thank you, gentlemen, for electing me the President of your Association.

Mr. J. Ghosal proposed, and Babu Jagannath Khanna seconded, a vote of thanks to the retiring office-bearers, and members of the Committee, for their valuable services during the past year. The resolution was put to the vote and carried unanimously.

Baboo Jadu Lal Mullick drew attention to the great want of good drinking water for Puri, where pilgrims muster in large numbers, and suggested that the Committee should find their way to make representation to the Imperial Government to grant a loan of two lakhs of rupees to the District Board at Puri, who would guarantee the payment of interest for a tolerable supply of good filtered water for the people of Puri. He also suggested a representation to Government for a railway communication to Orissa, which was a very fertile country, and which had peculiar advantages attached to it by being overspread with canals. He had learnt from Sir Rivers Thomson just before his retirement that sanction had been given to a scheme of railway between Puri and Panchpurah. If this was carried out as early as possible, Orissa would be soon connected with Bombay and Bengal. It was necessary, therefore, to point out to the Government the necessity of this line both for commerce and pilgrims who go there. He also drew the attention of the Committee to carefully watch the progress of the new Municipal Bill and the proceedings of the Council in respect to it, so as to secure a good law, or they would rue the day if they would allow the Bill to pass without some remonstrance on their part.

Babu Joykissen Mookerji said:—No subject connected with the administration of the country has been so thoroughly discussed within the last 40 or 50 years as the necessity of divesting executive officers of all judicial functions. The principle of the reform has been admitted from time to time by the Government itself and by high officers of State, and the only obstacle in the way of carrying it out has always been the increased expenditure which it would entail. But I think that no considerations whatever, financial or other, should be any longer allowed to perpetuate this blot in our administration. The combination of executive and judicial functions in the same officer has been the source of those numerous acts of oppression and high-handed exercise of authority which have from time to time scandalized British administration in this country, and that is no wonder, as it strikes at the very root of a sound administration of justice. It was painfully illustrated by the late Rungpur Deer case. The sphere of authority of District officers has been recently much enlarged by the introduction of local Self Government in this country, and it would be idle to expect either thoroughly independent action on the part of the members of the local and District Boards, or a fair trial of the working of those institutions, until District officers are wholly divested of judicial functions. The necessity of the reform is imperative, and I would, therefore, propose that this Association should lose no time in moving Government in this matter.

Babu Sitanath Roy said:—

It is now about two years, that the Bengal Tenancy Act came into operation in these provinces, and one is, therefore, in a position to say, how far its working has been beneficial or injurious, to the Zemindars, for whose benefit, the measure was originally conceived, for it must be fresh in every one's memory that the Bengal Tenancy Bill was introduced into the Legislative Council, in order to provide the Zemindars with a short and summaary remedy for the realisation of their rents; in fact, to protect the estates of ancient families from being put to the hammer, under the operation of the stringent revenue laws, by giving them full, but at the same time, reasonable facilities for the realisation of their rents from the ryots. From the experience I have been able to gather, in the course of the last two years, I may very well say, that the old Biblical adage has been very well realised in their case. "They wanted bread and they were promised bread, but instead they have got stones." So completely have the hopes of the Zemindars been frustrated that instead of the realisation of rents being facilitated they now find the greatest difficulty in realizing their just dues from the ryots. All of you present here must have not only heard of, but must have suffered from, the effects of the combinations that have been made everywhere amongst the ryots to resist the payment of just rents. Nowhere do these combinations exist with greater force than they do in Eastern Bengal, where unhappily the Zemindars are completely at the mercy of their ryots. And what has been the consequence of these combinations? You will be horrified to hear that they have terminated in murder and bloodshed. Last year there were no than less two murders committed by the ryots in the District of Dacca alone. The first was at a place called Bhabir-Chur in the Munshigunge sub-division, where the ryots of the place, most brutally murdered the Zemindars' Naib. The scene of the 2nd murder was at a fishery in the same sub-division where the fishermen, in order to avenge their landlord, one Chaytan Mullick, for having had obtained several rent decrees (decrees confirmed by the High Court) against them, one dark night (while he was crossing over the Megna river in a boat) not only murdered him, but murdered also hiss on and a 3rd person, who were in the same boat with him. I may here as well instance the recent case of a brutal assault that has been committed upon the person of a Naib of the late Babu Jogodish Nath Biswas of Manickgunge. And all these murders and murderous assaults were on account of the attempts made by the Naibs, on behalf of their landlords, to realise arrears of rent, or to enhance the rate of rent. There is a belief amongst the ryots (which has not yet been removed in spite of the repeated proclamations to the contrary issued by Magistrates of different districts) that the now Act has fixed their *jama* in perpetuity. Some ryots go the length of saying, that it has been reduced to a nominal sum, and that no additional *jama* is to be paid for any exess land, which may be found out by measurement, over and above that for which they have been paying rent. The ryots would not pay, unless and until they can have Dakhillas or rent-receipts, all in their own way, that is by having three Fs. inserted in them by the Zemindars' agents. Hence the combination amongst the ryots, and hence the absolute inability of the Zemindars to realise rents; and the consequence has been that most of the Zemindars of East Bengal have to borrow money at high rates of interest every kist in order to pay the government revenue. Does not this state of things mean utter ruination?

Again, the zemindars' agents are required to insert a hundred unnecessary things in the Dakhillas which can hardly be done with perfect accuracy. The agent is required to state the particulars of a ryot's holdings. Here the ryot will insist, to have the recognition by the zemindars' agent, of some sort of *mourasi* right or at least a right of occupancy in his holding. All these things make it desirable that the forms of the rent-receipts should be simplified, or that the zemindars should be allowed to revert to the system of giving Dakhillas in old forms. No complaint was ever heard of before the passing of the Bengal Tenancy Act, from any ryot with respect to the forms of dakhillas that were formerly in vogue. Under sections 20 and 21, most of the ordinary ryots, I mean non-occupancy ryots, have advanced the claims of their being the settled ryots of their respective villages, and hence, the natural unwillingness of the landlord to let out any new lands to those self-styled settled ryots. A zamindar in the face of the preposterous claims set up, cannot by letting out new lands to the alleged settled ryots, forego for ever the right of claiming enhancement on account of these new lands, and the effect of it is likely to be that the zemindars must either retain all such lands in their own hands (a thing impracticable) or forego the prospect of ever enhancing rent for the same, for enhancement now a days in the case of occupancy ryots with all obstacles placed by the lagislature in the way, has become a matter of history. It is no less a loss to the ryots themselves, for now a days, they can hardly have any new lands, if the zamindars can help it, and the consequence has been a perpetual source of annoyance and pecuniary loss to the zamindars and their ryots. As was anticipated, the landholders find the greatest difficulty now in getting lands for the erection of their own houses. The ryots everywhere having advanced some sort of rights either *Mourisi* or *occupancy* over all lands in the irrespective villages, the zemindars must either go to law courts for a declaratory decree as to the nature of the rights possessed by the ryots, or they must weakly and quietly submit to be fleeced by the ryots, and made to pay a heavy compensation. Assuming that the ryots have some rights, either *mourisi* or *occupancy*, the matter does not end in a civil court, for the zemindar will have to secure certificate from the Collector to show that the purposes for which lands are required to be aquired by them, are reasonable and sufficient, as if the Civil Court is not competent enough to judge of the sufficiency or otherwise of the purposes set out. I have personally known 2 or 3 instances in which the zemindars, to avoid trouble and litigation—which means waste of time, labour, and money-even in regard to lands over which the ryots had no rights, either *mourisi*, or occupancy, had to submit quietly to the extortionate demands of their own tenants, and had to pay a heavy compensation to make them part with their fancied rights over the same. Is it not a great hardship, not to mention the humiliation it involves, that a zemindar is made to pay a heavy compensation for acquiring a thing which was once his own property, and that to aperson who had no rights over it? It would take a long time to dilate upon the hardship and the loss (loss of profit, property and prestige,) which the operation of the new Act has entailed upon the zemindars. Suffice it to say that suits for enhancement and ejectment have been done away with, for the Legislature has attached so many hard and fast conditions to suits for enhancement of rent, and has so completely hampered all enhancement clauses that the zemindars have ceased altogether to entertain the idea of enhancing rents over those now prevalent..

While there is no clause now which empowers the Zemiudars to eject even an ordinary non-occupancy ryot, however troublesome he may be to his Zemindar, Messrs Rampini and Funicane in their notes on the Bengal Tenancy Act, sounded the note of alarm, that suits by one co-sharer for the recovery of whole rent, making his other co-sharers party defendants, had been effectually and completely done away with by section 188, but I am happy to say that some of the Honourable judges of the High Court have in two recent decisions put a liberal construction upon that section.

I may state here that the chief reason why rents cannot now be speedily realised is that the clauses about distraint have been so completely clogged, that zemindars thinking it a sheer waste of time, money and labour, hardly avail themselves of them, for by the time a zemindar may be making an application for distraint, the ryot getting scent of it may altogether reap his harvest and carry it elsewhere and sell it.

The evil effect of the Bengal Tenancy Act, has already become apparent, in the immense increase in litigation; though the number of munsiffs are being raised everywhere they can hardly dispose of rent-suits, within the alloted time. But the greatest of all evils, has been the deterioration in price of landed property in the Muffussil since the introduction of the new Act. Now-a-days there is hardly any purchaser for large estates, unless they can be had for a song. Under the deadening and chilling influences of these hard and fast clauses of the new Act the zemindars have no other course left than to submit meekly to their lot. But alas! is there no remedy for the ill fated zemindars, is there not one philanthropist among English politicians broad-minded enough to take a compassionate view of our hard lot. While the zemindars of Bengal, one and all, high and low, every one according to his might, voluntarily and spontaneously unloosened their pursestrings, to celebrate the Empress' Jubilee in right royal style, befitting the great Queen that rules over so many hundred millions of human beings, is it too much to expect that our beloved Sovereign would on her part show her appreciation of our loyalty by some small act of concession such as the repeal of the Bengal Tenancy Act, (an Act which benefits no party, and is in fact disliked by both Zemindars and Ryots) so that our chidren and children's children may ever gratefully cherish the memory of the Empress' Jubilee in connection with the repeal of the Bengal Tenancy Act?

I would, therefore, suggest that we should lay a memorial at the foot of the Throne praying for the repeal of the Tenancy Act in commemoration of the 50th year of the illustrious reign of our gracious Sovereign.

With a vote of thanks to the chair, the meeting separated.

SURGEON Kirtikar came forward the other day before the Bombay Brahmo Samaj with a very sensational lecture on the Rukmabai case. We call it "sensational," because it makes disclosures which throw quite a flood of new light on the romantic story of the taill-ashers of Duckland. The heroine, our "Golden Lady," is not the Peri that people took her for, but only a carpenter's daughter. "In the year 1871," says Surgeon Kirtikar, "Dr. Sakharam, who was a widower then, married Rukmabai's mother. The day after his marriage he came to live as our tenant in 4, Girgaum Backroad. I was then living in the same house. Rukmabai came to Dr. Sukharam with her mother. Now, this marriage of Dr. Sakharam with a widow was no reform, as among the Sutars or Carpenters or Pachkalshis, as they are called, these marriages are allowed by custom. It is a pity the lecturer did not enlighten his audience as to the ritual by which the marriage was celebrated. Was it under the Civil Marriage Act, or as a Phulbia, —exchange of garlands only, or *a la* St Jacques. In Bengal our carpenters seldom trouble themselves with any ritual in their widow marriages. The ceremoney usually is that of dwelling together.

OF Rukhmabais' early life and marriage Surgeon Kirtikar gives the following account. "From 1871 to Sept. 1874 I knew Dr. Sakharam intimately, being with him night and day, and during that time I never knew Dr. Sakharam to have exchanged half a dozen words with Rakhmabai, and yet Dr. Sakharam is said to have educated her. At any rate, he did not send her to school. The mother did it, uneducated as she is, and Rakhmabai commenced her Marathi in Miss Carpenter's school. Dr. Sakharam among others, however, was anxious about her marriage, and knowing that his wife inherited some money from her former husband which, on her remarriage lapsed to Rukhmabai as her only child, and which was in the custody of Rukhmabai's grandfather, Dr. Sakharam conceived the happy thought of connecting his cousin Dadaji with Rukhmabai, thus securing the money—that is, thus "wrenching it," as he used to say to me, from that "old man," the grandfather. I may at once tell you that the relations of the grandfather and Dr Sakharam, though outwardly peaceful, were not very cordial. Take my word for it, this was the basis of the ruin of two good and innocent creatures of God. Rakhmabai was nearly ten at the time I left for England in 1874. Dadaji was older in age of course. Dadaji was poor and fatherless, living with his brothers, but assisted by Dr. Sakharam with money and clothes, daily frequenting Dr. Sakharam's house, till I went to England. Rukhmabai was married when I was in England in 1875 or 1876."

Of her life after the marriage Mr. Kirtikar says:—"Not much was known of her domestic misfortune. She undertook the work of the secretary of Native Ladies' Society or Arya Mahila Samaj. This gave her a start. In the year 1880, when I returned from the Afghan Campaign, I heard of the story of the disunion from the lips of Dr. Sakharam himself. I told him then in no qualified words that he had wrongly advised the girl, and that he had victimized the girl and the boy to pacify his own roused anger."

He proceeds "what has been the result of education on Rukhmabai? She gets letters written in English, and allows it to be said they are her own compositions. She allows her lawyer to call Dadaji a cooly. He is no more a cooly now than he was before. He is no more a cooly than she is. It was said in the body of one of her letters that the letters were only polished by a friend. Now I hear they were written by her in Marathi and then translated into English. When the second letter appeared I challenged the "Hindu lady" to openly declare that they are hers. My challenge is still a challenge, and so it will ever remain. As a proof of the lady's literary attainments it may not be amiss to mention that her knowledge of English did not suffice to help her to read the defence she put forth in her case. The defence bears an attestation which says, the document was explained to her to in Marhatti by an attorney's clerk, and she attested in Mharhatti characters. After this one may as well exclaim what a falling off is here!

LOCAL.

THE BRITISH INDIAN ASSOCIATION CALCATTA.

The Thirt-fifth Annual General Meetting of the British Indian Association.

The annual Meeting of the British Indian Association was held at the Association Rooms, on Wednesday, the 20th April at 4 P. M.

There were present:

Dr. Rajendralala Mitra, L.L.D., C.I.E., in the Chair.

Maharajah Narendra Krishna Bahadur, Maharajah Sir Jotendra Mohun Tagore, K. C. S. I., Babus Kunja Lal Bannerjee, Charu Chunder Mallick, Rama Nath Ghose, Rai Dwarka Nath Mookerji Bahadur of Kidderpore, Raja Durga Charn Law, C. I. E., Babu Surendra Nath Pal Choudhuri, Mr. Herjibhoy Manackji Rustomjee, Babus Hurry Mohan Bosu of Howrah, Jaggan Nath Khanna, Chandi Charn Sing, Rama Kanta Sen, Sita Nath Roy, Narsing Narain, Agent of the Maharajah of Dumraon, Sham Chand Lahari, Sarat Chandra Roy Chawdhuri, Kumar Devendra Narain Raya, Mr. J. Ghosal, Babus Baikantha Nath Basu, Jogendra Chandra Ghose, Jaykissen Mukerji, Newab Mir Mohamed Ali, Babus Bejoykissen Mukerji, Jodulal Mallick, Damodar Das Burman, Benode Behari Mallick, Rajkumar Sarvadhikari. The Hon'ble Raja Peary Mohun Mookerjee.—*Honorary Secretary*

The proceedings were opened by the President calling on the Secretary, to readon behalf of the Managing Committee, the following report on the working of the Association during the past year

THE REPORT.

The Committee have the honor to submit the the following report on the working of the Association during the past year, *viz.*, from 1st January to 31st December 1886.

The following subjects engaged the attention of the Committee during the first half of the past year:

(1) The Income Tax Bill.
(2) The law relating to village watchmen.
(3) The registration of Permanent Tenures.
(4) The levy of the Zemindari Dawk Cess.
(5) The proposed Royal Commission.
(6) The Rent Difficulty.
(7) The draft rules for the conduct of elections in Muffassil Municipalities.
(8) The Muffassil Police Reform.
(9.) The latest dates for the payment of Government Revenue.

Full details of the proceedings of the Committee in regard to these subjects have already been given in the Committee's report for September last. This report will, therefore, dwell on the details of work done since July last.

THE GUARDIAN AND WARD'S BILL.

On the 1st of July last, the Committee submitted in reply to Government letter, No. 642 J. D., dated 3rd 1886, their opinion on the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to "Guardians and Wards." They stated that the object of the Bill was to consolidate into one Act the different enactments, so as to make it applicable to all classes of Her Majesty's subjects in British India; and to amend the law by the light of the judicial decisions which have been passed on the subject, and of the suggestions that have from time to time been made for its improvement. To consolidate a law on the subject in which persons of every race and creed have their own peculiar personal laws is, indeed, a difficult task. The Committee apprehended, therefore, that some of the most important provisions of the present Bill would have to be amended within a short time. Some changes proposed to be made in the present law commended themselves to the Committee as improvements. The law of Majority has, from time to time, given rise to questions of great perplexity. Act IX. of 1875 has not removed that difficulty; the necessity, therefore, of enacting a definite rule of Majority is imperative. The Committee submitted that it would not be unreasonable if it be provided in all cases that a person should be deemed a Minor until he had completed the age of 18 years. They were further of opinion that the learned judge of Lucknow had not made out a case for investing the Civil Court with any control with respect to the marriage o Minors, and that any provision to that effect would create great alarm and discontent in the native community. The Committee were informed that some of their suggestions had been accepted by the Select Committee, and that the final consideration of the Bill had been postponed till the next session of the Council in Calcutta.

See Supplement.

TELEGRAMS.

IN the House of Commons on the 20th the Chancellor of the Exchequer made his annual financial statement. The surplus from last year ammounts to £776,000. The estimated revenue is put down at £91,155,000, and the expenses at £90,180,000. By various charges in the stamp duties, by taxing debentures similarly to preference and ordinary shares, and by remodelling the redemp tion of the National Debt, an estimated surplus of £2,700,000 is obtained. With this surplus it is proposed to reduce the Income-tax one penny, the duty on tobaco by four pence, and to make a slight reduction on the duty on marine insurnace. The surplus is thus redued to £300,000. The Chancellor pays off the credit of elven millions this year, and removes the local loans from the Budget. A special stock of £37,000,000 is to be created for the local loans. In conclusion, the Chancellor said he hoped for a large reduction in naval charges, and especially in shipbuilding, next year, and alluded to the general improvement in trade.

M. Schraebell, a French Commissary of Police, has been arrested by the German police near Ars, and conveyed to Metz. According to French accounts he was lured over the frontier into German territory, and was then arrested in a rough manner by the German police.

THE House of Lords having discussed the Irish Land Billl, on the motion for its second reading, it was then adjourned.

EVERAGES FOR WARM COUNTRIES.

IN warm countries it is of supreme importance to use a health-giving beverage, with which, in all cases and at trifling cost, the thirst can be quenched without risk of deranging the stomach and especially the intestines.

Of all hygienic products, the one uniting the most dowerful and recognised beneficial properties is unpoubtedly Tar.

The use of tar-water was first favoured in England after a remarkable account eulogising its virtues, written by BERKELEY, BISHOP OF CLOYNE, who being on board a vessel, amongst the crew of which Typhus was making terrible ravages, noticed that those sailors who drank tar-water were left untouchet by this disease.

Thanks to the ingenious preparation of universal fame GUYOT'S TAR SOLUTION, tar-water has, for some years now, regained its old renown.

A table-spooful of GUYOT'S TAR SOLUTION poured into a tumbler of water produces a pleasant and eminently healthful drink ready for immediate use.

GUYOT'S TAR SOLUTION is also the most efficacious remedy for bronchial affections, colds, catarrh, phthisis, as well as for bladder diseases

To all who have tried it, this truly wonderful beverage has afforded complete and comforting relief.

Sold by all Chemists. Agents in Calcutta Messr. Bathgate and Co. R. Scott Thomson and Co.

DR DE JONGH'S LIGHT-BROWN COD LIVER OIL.—ITS UNEQUALLED EFFICAY IN CONSUMPTION.—Dr. Sinclair Coghill, Physician to the Royal National Hospital for Consumption and Diseases of the Chest, Ventnor, writes:—"For many years I have, in private practice, exclusively priscribed the Cod Liver Oil of Dr. de Jongh, for a large and intimate experience of its superiority as a remedial agents in appropriate cases to other Cod Liver Oils ignorantly landed on account of their comparative tastelessness and lightness of colour. More recently I have had, in the Royal National Hospital for Consumption here, an opportunity of instituting a more extensive and systematic comparison, and I have convinced myself that in Tubercular and the various forms of Strumous Disease, Dr. de Jongh's Light- Brown Cod Liver Oil possesses greater therapeutic efficacy than any other Cod Liver Oil with which I am acquainted. It was especially noted, in a large number of cases in which the patients protested they had never been abe to retain or digest other Cod Liver Oil, that Dr, de

Jongh's Oil was not only tolerated, but taken readily and with marked benefit, Dr de Jongn's Oil is now the only Cod Liver Oil used in the Royal National Hospital for Consumption and Diseases of the Chest Dr de Jongh's Light-Brwn Cod Liver Oil is sold, only in capsuled imperial half-pints, pints, and quarts by all chemists, druggists and store-keepers. Sole consignee, Ansar Harford and Co, 210, High Holborn London

Government Notifications

Calcutta Gazette,—*April 20th, 1887.*

GENERAL.—Babu Hem Chunder Mukerji, Temporary Sub-Deputy Collector, is appointed to be Temporary Deputy Collector in charge of the Khas Tehsil Office at Contai, in Midnapore, vice Babu Soshi Bhusan Sen, transferred.

The Lieutenant-Governor accepts the resignation tendered by the Reverend W Ulyat of his appointment as Honorary Chaplain of the Dacca Volunteer Rifle Corps.

Babu Mohendra Nath Gupta, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Naokholly, is allowed leave for four days' under section 72 of the Civil Leave Code, in extension of the leave granted to him under the order of the 10th February 1887.

Babu Purna Chunder Bysack, Officiating Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Serajgunge, Pubna, is allowed leave for one month, under section 72 of the Civil Leave Code.

Kumar Ramendra Krishna, Officiating Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Hughly, on leave, is transferred to Pubna, and is posted to Serajgung in that District, during the absence, on leave, of Babu Purna Chunder Bysack, or until further orders.

Mr E B Harris, C S, reported his departure from India, on furlough on the 1st instant.

Mr C H Vowell, C S, reported his departure from India, on furlough, on the 1st instant.

The Lieutenant-Governor accepts the resignation tendered by Mr C J Soar of his Commission a Honorary Lieutenant in the Northern Bengal Volunteer Rifle Corps

Babu Basanta Krishna Bose, Officiating Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Bankura, is transferred to Darjiling, and is posted to Silligori, during the absence, on leave, of Babu Prosanna Kumar Dutt, or until further orders.

This cancels the order of the 5th instant, transferring Babu Upendra Chunder Mukerji, Temporary Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Midnapore to Darjiling, and posting him to Siligori.

Babu Bejoy Madhub Mukerji, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Ranaghat, Nuddea, is allowed leave for three months, under section 72 of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the date on which he may be relieved.

Babu Radha Madhub Bose, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, on leave, is posted to Nuddea, and is appointed to have charge of the Ranaghat Sub-Division of that District, during the absence, on leave, of Babu Bejoy Madhub Mukerji, or until further orders.

Babu Mon Mohun Roy, B A, is appointed to act, until further orders, as a Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, and is posted to the sudder station of the District of Bankura.

Babu Kalipodo Chuckerburty, Temporary Sub-Deputy Collector, Kutubdea, Chittagong, and Babu Haripodo Ghose, Temporary Sub-Deputy Collector, Chittagong, Hill Tracts, are appointed to be Tehsildars in the District of Chittagong.

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ROBERT TURNBULL,
Secretary to the Corporation.

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মূল্যবান্ সম্পত্তি বিক্রয়।

যেহেতু জীবনরাম ওরফে গোঁদুবাবু প্রভৃতি প্রতিবাদির নামে নিম্ন সাক্ষরকারীর বাদীত্বে দায়েরী জেলা রাজসাহীর সবজজ আদালতে সন ১৮৮৩ সালের ৩৪নং মোকর্দ্দমার পক্ষগণের পরস্পর আপস নিষ্পত্তি হইয়া গত সন ১৮৮৬ সালের ২রা মার্চ্চ তারিখে উক্ত আদালতে সোলেনামা দাখিল হইয়া তদনুসারে ঐ মোকর্দ্দমা ডিক্রি হইয়াছে ঐ সোলেনামা এবং তন্মূলক উক্ত ডিক্রীর সর্ত্তানুসারে নিম্ন স্বাক্ষরকারী বাদী প্রকাশিত হ্যাণ্ডবিল ও ক্যাটালগ অনুযায়ী ভূমি সম্পত্তি ইমারত, জমিদারী এবং অন্যান্য স্থাবর সম্পত্তি বিক্রয় করণার্থে ক্ষমবান হইয়া সন ১৮৮৭ সালের ১৬ই মে (সোমবার অবধি আরম্ভ করিয়া প্রতিদিন প্রাতে ৬টা হইতে ১০টা ও অপরাহ্নে ৪টা হইতে ৬॥ অবধি, যে পর্য্যন্ত সমুদয় লাট বিক্রয় শেষ না হয় সে পর্য্যন্ত মেঃ রামপুর ঘোড়ামারা নিম্ন সাক্ষরকারী রিসিভারের আপীষে স্বয়ং অথবা তাঁহার প্রদত্ত ক্ষমতাবান ব্যক্তি জেলা রাজসাহির, বগুড়া ও পাবনা জেলার অন্তর্গত বেবাক সম্পত্তি প্রকাশ্য নিলামে সর্ব্ব উচ্চ মূল্যে বিক্রয় করিবেন। অতএব এতদ্দ্বারা জমিদার, ভূম্যাধিকারী, মহাজন, এবং অন্যান্য সকলকে জ্ঞাত করা যাইতেছে যে যদি কেহ ঐ সকল সম্পত্তি ক্রয় করণার্থে তৎসংক্রান্ত অতিরিক্ত কোন বিবরণ জ্ঞাত হইতে ইচ্ছা করেন তাহা হইলে অবিলম্বে নিম্ন সাক্ষরকারীর রামপুর বোয়ালিয়াস্থিত আফিসে হেড্ আসিষ্টাণ্টের নিকট অনুসন্ধান করিবেন।

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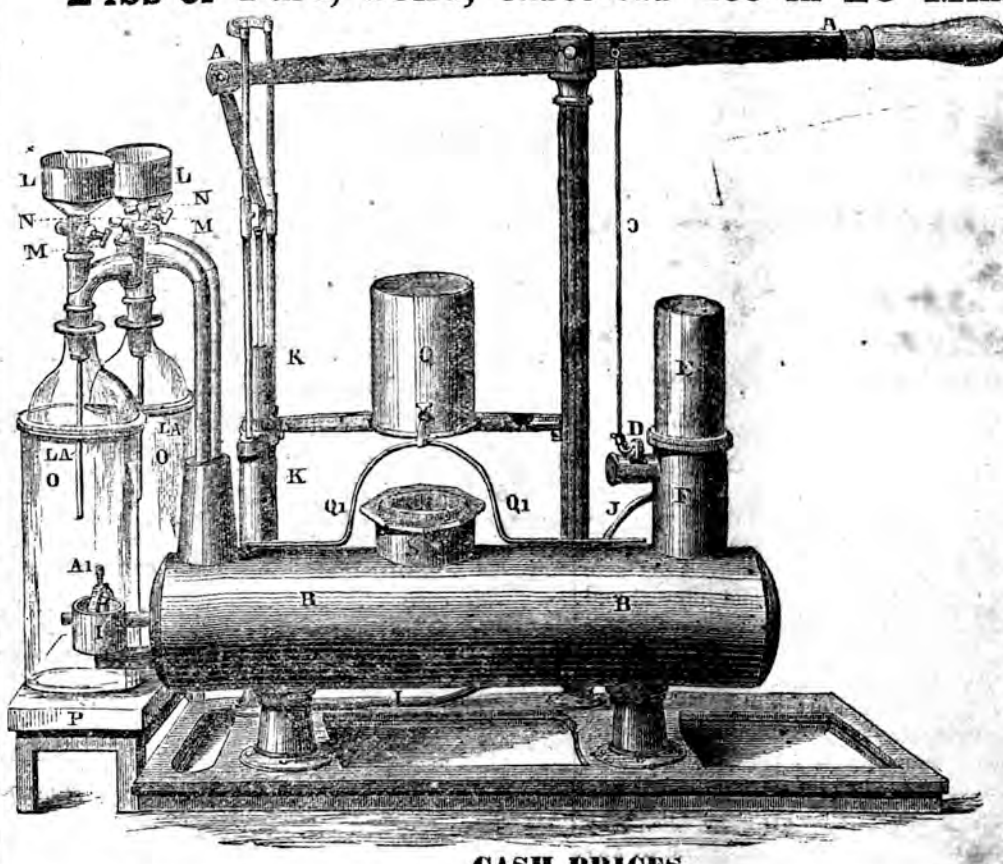

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